THE

# CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

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NOVEMBER, 1963 December Ready-for-YOUth Resources

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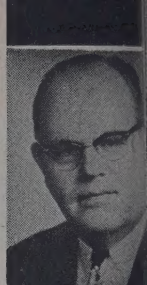
## Oporto Conference In Session

# COLABORADORES DE DEUS

## BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Harold E. Westerhoff

These strange words did not long remain strange to the delegates from many countries who came to the Area II Conference of the World's Christian Endeavor Union in Portugal late in the summer. The theme of the conference, and of the simultaneously held Second Convention of the Portuguese Christian Endeavor Union, soon became familiar and recognizeable as the oft-quoted "laborers together with God" based on I Corinthians 3:9. And the theme and this key verse were to dominate every waking moment of the delegates for the several days in which they met in three different cities in the north of Portugal: Oporto, Vila Nova de Gaia, and Aveiro, the latter being the Venice of Portugal.

Portugal is known as the garden of Europe set down by the sea—and it is just that. And the great grape country of the north is especially beautiful in all its green at the end of Summer. Seldom has there been in any Christian Endeavor gathering a warmer interdenominational and international fellowship than characterized the meetings in Portugal. This was directly the result of the effective and efficient work of William J. Sharpe of Great Britain, Area II general secretary of the World's Union. Never has there been a recent World's Union gathering of any character or magnitude where so much has been done for the delegates and for the meetings by the local Endeavorers. And this was the result directly of the untiring efforts of Rev. Agostinho F. Arbiol, president and general secretary of the Portuguese Christian Endeavor Union. Associated with him was a dedicated corps of tireless workers from the local area. Mr. Arbiol is affectionately called the "Saint Augustine of Christian Endeavor."

It was significant that no word of the conference or the convention appeared in any of the newspapers of cities. The suspicion was that word been passed, perhaps by the gove ment, that no notice was to be taken this evangelical Protestant functi There was no lack of fervor and vit ty in the meetings—no dearth of ticipants. They came from far near to crown the facilities used. T sang with gusto. They listened rap They prayed earnestly that God wo make them His co-laborers in the portant word for Christ and His Chur

If there were royal families in Ch tian Endeavor, the Arbiols would among the greatest of royalty. The tire family—Mr. Arbiol, a pastor in Lusitania Church of Portugal; his w derful and gracious wife; and t beautiful and vivacious daughter— are of a royal caste. And it is t who so wonderfully give leadership Christian Endeavor in Portugal.

## *November and December Dates*

### November

**1-3—Missouri Convention, Poplar Bluff**

Contact: Gene Fink, 5340 Delmar Boulevard, Apt. J-3, St. Louis 63112

### December

**5-8—Executives' Program Council, Columbus, Ohio**

Contact: International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216

**Pray for these Christian Endeavor events!**

**Are you ready for Christian Endeavor Week January 26 - February 2, 1964?**

### COVER CLUES

Modern art illustrated the theme, "God's Fellow-Workers," during the 2nd Convention of the Portuguese Christian Endeavor Union (UPEC) and the Area II Conference of the World's Christian Endeavor Union held at Oporto, Portugal, August 29-September 1.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

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# Oporto Report

## By Mrs. Marion N. Sharpe

**or's Note: Mrs. Sharpe is the wife of William Sharpe, general secretary of Area II of the rld's Christian Endeavor Union. She partici-ed in the 2nd Convention of the Portuguese istian Endeavor Union and the conference of a II of the World's Union held August 29-tember 1 in Portugal. The Sharpes live at on-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, England.**

There is an advantage in a small nference, in that one gets to know ple much better than in a large one. is was the case at Oporto, Portugal, proximately 100 from the British Isles, ht from Germany, and six from Spain re there, plus representatives from lland, Norway, Egypt, Ireland, the ited States of America, and, of course, rtugal.

Portugal is a small union, and this vasion by the World's Union was un-ubtedly a source of great encourage-nt and inspiration to them.

We were all very delighted to have orld Union leaders with us—Bishop yde W. Meadows, president; Harold Westerhoff, general secretary; and rs. Ernest R. Bryan, honorary field cretary.

In addition to leading the Bible udies the mornings of Thursday and riday, Bishop Meadows spoke at one the evening rallies on the theme, God's Fellow-Workers in the Church." ther speakers were the Rev. Albert spey, minister of the Mirante Metho-ist Church where we met; the Rev. ndrew Wright, chairman of Area II nd president of the British Union; Dr. . Skevington Wood, Methodist minister nd past president of the British Union; nd Harold Westerhoff.

Conferences were led by Pastor Arno agel (German Union president) and Villiam J. Sharpe (General Secretary, rea II).

**ELOW—Around a table decorated to lustrate the conference theme are eft to right) William J. Sharpe, Rev. gostinho F. Arbiol, Bishop Clyde W. leadows, Mrs. Ernest R. Bryan, and ev. Albert Aspey.**

All the evening sessions began at 9:00 P.M. Unfortunately, very few of the Portuguese Endeavorers could attend the daytime sessions, but they all came in the evenings and were prepared to stay as long as there was anything to be done or said. The vice-president of the Portuguese Union, the Rev. Ireneu Cunha, was a very good interpreter.

Morning coffee during the business sessions was provided by Mrs. Aspey and her staff of Endeavorers and was greatly appreciated.

Only one Englishman spoke Portuguese—the Rev. Albert Aspey, who has been in Portugal for eight years. The Rev. Agostinho F. Arbiol, the Rev. Juan Valles (Spain), and one or two German delegates spoke English, but in spite of language difficulties, under the chairmanship of Mr. Wright the business sessions were very happy ones and all seemed to understand perfectly what was being done. A very full report was given by the Area II secretary, but even then there were other items of news brought personally which were of very great interest.

It was very inspiring to hear how Spain is working under difficulties and of the wonderful work being done by German Endeavorers, to mention only two centers, and this could be multiplied in all countries where Christian Endeavor is found.

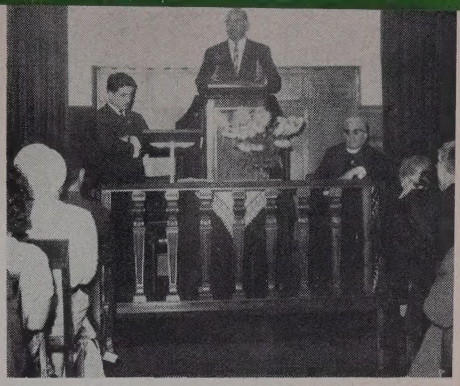
The music of the conference was led by the choir in the Methodist Church and also the Y.M.C.A. choir. In addition, there was the occasion when the World President and the Area secretaries delighted us with a trio.

On Saturday afternoon an excursion was arranged to Aveiro, the Portuguese Venice, in lovely weather, which indeed we had the whole time we were there. This included a boat trip and tea in a cafe arranged by Endeavorers, a wonderful cake made by Miss Arbiol, and an evening meeting in the Methodist Church.

In the Lusitania Church of Villa Nova da Gaia, the church of Mr. Arbiol, president of the Portuguese Union, the final meeting was held on Sunday morning. The church was packed. Mr. Arbiol conducted the service and Dr. Wood preached on the theme, "God's Fellow-Workers in a Time of Trouble." At this service was the Rev. Bispo Dom Antonio F. Fiandor (now retired) who was also present at the World's Convention in London in 1926 and there met Dr. Francis E. Clark.

One cannot speak too highly of the work of the committee, under the leadership of the Portuguese Union president, Mr. Arbiol, and one feels that Christian Endeavor in Portugal has an expanding future. When he met us for tea on the following Tuesday, with his wife and daughter, Mr. Arbiol was a tired but very happy man, just off for a well-deserved holiday.

And so another conference is over, but the inspiration lives on and both visitors and visited have been strengthened and encouraged by it.



**TOP — Harold Westerhoff's message on "God's Fellow — Workers in the World" is interpreted by Rev. Ireneu Cunha (left). Rev. Agostinho F. Arbiol (right) is Portuguese Union president. BOTTOM — William J. Sharpe reports as Area II General Secretary at Council business sessions, when Rev. Andrew Wright, Area II Chairman, presided. Also at head table are Bishop Clyde W. Meadows and Mrs. William J. Sharpe, recorder.**

**LEFT — Rev. Arno Pagel, president of the German Union, and Rev. Juan Valles (right) who directs the Spanish Christian Endeavor Union, enjoy a morning coffee break during Council business sessions. Mrs. Albert Aspey is pouring.**

# NEWS AND VIEWS

Photo by John Hvasta

DR. GEORGE K. SCHWEITZER receives International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation from Bishop Clyde W. Meadows at the International Christian Endeavor Convention in Washington, D.C., July 5. Dr. Schweitzer, who is professor of chemistry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is the tenth recipient of this high honor. The Citation lauded Dr. Schweitzer for his demonstration in himself and through his work "that the ultimate truths of Science and Religion are in harmony and complement each other."

● QUESTION 7, a film all young people should see, was sponsored by Somerset County (New Jersey) Union on September 22 at Second Reformed Church in Somerville. Study guides were provided to societies to be used as the basis of several meetings.

● FRIENDS of Dr. W. W. McKinney were saddened by his death this summer. Dr. McKinney, for many years minister of First Presbyterian Church, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, was a writer of Christian Endeavor topic materials for Senior High-Young People.

● VIRGINIA Endeavorers in convention August 12-16 at Bridgewater heard David G. Jackson, director of student work for men, Huntington College, give the keynote message. Cecil A. Jeffery, Ohio Union general secretary, brought the climactic message and conducted the decision service at which 28 delegates registered commitments. Theme for the event was "Jesus Christ . . . the Way." A full-scale convention for Juniors was enjoyed by 31 delegates. Mrs. Raymond P. Rusnak is the new Virginia president.

● CALIFORNIA reports a successful convention August 22-25 at the University of Redlands. Following a nautical theme, the gathering was called a "Regatta." There were 473 registered, with 50 youth from 20 different churches and representing 12 county or district unions making decisions. For adults there was a special Sponsor's Seminar. John C. Jones, accountant for the Tejon Ranch Company with headquarters at Lebec, was elected president of the California Union for the coming year. At the Hume Lake Summer Conference 233 were in attendance with 96 making commitments; while at the Mt. Hermon Conference 77 of the 173 gathered among the Redwoods felt the call of God to surrender themselves. Rev. Robert Hess, California general secretary, says, "Christian Endeavor continues to provide leadership for the church through commitment."

● KNOW YOUR AMERICA WEEK is November 24-30. To find out how you can participate, write to Rev. Christian A. Tirre, citizenship director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

● JULY 6-11, 1964, are the dates for a whole week of study, training, and fellowship for Christian Endeavorers. Next year's International Summer Assembly will be held then at Otterbein College in Westerville, near Columbus, Ohio. For just $30 delegates can participate in the entire Assembly, which begins with dinner on Monday, July 6, and ends after breakfast on Saturday, July 11. Send reservations with $10 to the International Society.

● WANT A PEN PAL from Australia? Want to exchange a meeting with an Australian society? Write to International Society in Columbus for details.

● "ONE WAY FOR MODERN MAN" is a new publication of the American Bible Society. This is the first in a new ser of Scripture publications designed attract those not previously interest in the Bible. This volume presents t Gospel of John in the contempora language of the J. B. Phillips trans tion. Modern type and modern pictur make it appealing to youth. Copies c be obtained for fifteen cents each fr the American Bible Society, 450 Pa Avenue, New York 22, New York.

Photos by Mrs. Etta V. Ber

ABOVE — Winners in the Intermedia Memory Contest at California's co vention at Redlands were (left right) Mary Lou Pickard, third; Ny Gatchell, first; Edith Eager, secon and Randy Cook, tied for thir BELOW — Leading California acti ties this year are these new office (left to right) Stan Hall, recording se retary; John C. Jones, president; a Max Webb, first vice-president.

Delegates at Virginia's annual convention at Bridgewater College

## 963 WORLDWIDE BIBLE READING

### THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS

A spiritual bond between millions of sons—this is the invisible chain that forged when everyone reads the ne passage of Scripture. Join with ers in this annual venture sponsored the American Bible Society.

VEMBER

Thanksgiving ..... Psalm 100
..... Psalm 133
..... Psalm 150

CEMBER

1st Advent Sunday ..... Matthew 5:1-16
..... Matthew 5:17-26
..... Matthew 5:43-48
..... Matthew 6:1-15
..... Matthew 6:19-34
..... Matthew 7:1-12
..... Matthew 7:13-29

2nd Advent Sunday and Universal Bible Sunday ..... Psalm 119:105-120
..... Psalm 119:89-104
..... II Timothy 3:10-17
..... Deuteronomy 5:6-21
..... Ephesians 6:11-17
..... Philippians 4:4-9
..... Psalm 25:1-22

3rd Advent Sunday ..... II Peter 1:16-21
..... Hebrews 4:11-16
..... I Thessalonians 1:1-10
..... James 1:19-27
..... I John 1:1-10
..... John 1:1-18
..... Matthew 1:18-25

4th Advent Sunday ..... Luke 1:5-25
..... Luke 1:26-38
..... Luke 1:39-56

Christmas ..... Luke 2:8-20

*For the last six days of the year, ese passages are recommended.*

..... Matthew 2:2-12
..... Matthew 2:13-23
..... Luke 2:21-35
Sunday ..... Luke 2:39-52
..... John 8:48-59
..... Revelation 22:12-21

Will you make Bible reading a daily ractice? This is a part of Christian ndeavor's Quiet Hour observance.

### A Message of Thanks From Mrs. Earle Gates and Family

My family and I want to thank everyone for the cards and messages received when Dr. Gates was ill in the hospital. Also, our most sincere love and appreciation go out to all of Earle's friends who remembered us by cards, phone messages, telegrams, flowers, gifts, and letters at the time of his passing to his heavenly reward. The work that Dr. Gates loved shall continue on by the contributions made to International Christian Endeavor and by ones who pledged their lives to the cause of Christ and His Church. Our hearts are grateful for the prayers of blessing for our family.

# earn awards for citizenship

Youth may earn valuable awards in 1964 through Christian Endeavor's annual Citizenship Awards Program.

According to Rev. Christian A. Tirre, citizenship director of the International Society, next year's competition is open to individuals as well as societies. The program is part of Christian Endeavor's Christian Citizenship Witness.

## Facts about the 1964 Citizenship Awards Program

### For Individuals

*Participants*—Open to all youth in the United States and Canada who have not reached their 25th birthday by February 3, 1964.

*Albert H. Diebold Awards*—First award is $150 in cash plus a grant (to a maximum of $100) for expenses of attending the International Summer Assembly at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio, July 6-11, 1964. Second award will be $125; third, $75; fourth, $50; with awards of $25 each for the next five runners-up. Special award emblems also go to the top nine winners, with honor certificates presented to all other qualified entrants.

*Basis of Awards*—Awards will be given for the most significant article, editorial, talk, poster, black and white photograph, or cartoon which dynamically implements the folder *What Is Christian Citizenship?* and provides a Christian witness to the community. The entry must be developed, written, or released after May 31, 1963, and must be used as a Christian witness in the community by February 3, 1964. Each entrant must tell how the entry was used as a Christian witness in his community.

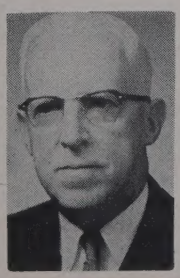
### For Societies

*Participants*—Open to all Christian Endeavor societies or similar youth groups or combinations of Christian Endeavor societies or youth groups within a local church in the United States and Canada. Majority of members must be under 25 years of age.

*Albert H. Diebold Awards*—First award is $200 in cash plus a grant (to a maximum of $100) for expenses of one or more youth representatives of the award-winning society to attend the 1964 International Summer Assembly. Second award will be $150; third, $100; fourth, $75; plus awards of $25 each to the next five runners-up. The top nine winners will receive plaques, with honor certificates going to all other qualified entrants.

*Basis of Awards*—Awards will be given for sponsoring and reporting a significant completed Christian citizenship activity, to be commenced after May 31, 1963, and completed by February 3, 1964. Each activity will be evaluated on the basis of group participation, goals established or achieved, the manner in which it implements the folder *What Is Christian Citizenship?* and Christian witness to the community.

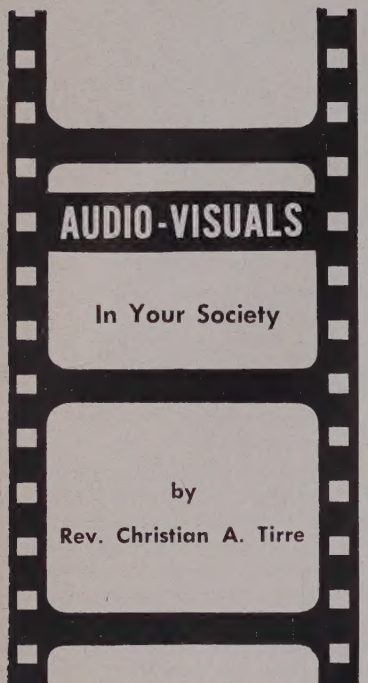
Winners will be announced April 24, 1964, with presentation of the Albert H. Diebold Awards to be made during the International Summer Assembly in July. For a copy of the folder *What Is Christian Citizenship?* and an official entry blank, plus other information, contact Mr. Tirre at Christian Endeavor Headquarters in Columbus, Ohio.



Warren G. Hoopes, Sr.

## WASHINGTON WRAP-UP

For a complete visual report of the International Convention in Washington, D.C., a set of Kodachrome slides with an accompanying script is now available. This presentation has been prepared by Warren G. Hoopes, Sr., of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, former general secretary of the Pennsylvania Union. It includes more than 150 2 x 2 slides and is available on a loan basis from the International Society. The only cost is for postage. To schedule "Washington Wrap-Up" in your area, write to Phyllis I. Rike, Administrative Secretary, at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.




The wise and selective use of audio-visuals can add greatly to the program of any society. Audio-visuals properly used can bring new life and variety into the weekly meetings. However, it must be realized that they can easily become an excuse for laziness and lack of preparation.

Confucius is credited with saying that "one picture is worth a thousand words." Our Lord Jesus Christ practiced this as He proclaimed the Gospel; He painted word pictures in what are called parables. He used every day experiences and objects to communicate His message of salvation.

Audio-visuals are more than just filmstrips and motion pictures; the name takes in a host of methods that can be employed to vividly communicate the truths of the Christian faith. Consider some of the methods available to your society.

### FILMSTRIPS AND MOTION PICTURES

Filmstrips and motion pictures are the best known and most used forms of audio-visuals. They are produced by many Christian film companies and denominations and can be secured from most religious bookstores on a rental basis. This form of audio-visual is best used when opportunity is given for discussion following the showing. In order to do this properly it is necessary for the leader to preview the film or filmstrip to discover areas that should be discussed further. This preview will also assist the leader in appropriately introducing the film or filmstrip so that the audience will know what to look for.

### TAPE RECORDER AND RECORDS

The tape recorder has become an important instrument in the life of most churches. It can be used in the society program by providing prerecorded comments and interviews on the evening's topic by individuals who could not be present. Some groups have taped a whole meeting and exchanged it with a Christian Endeavor society or youth group in another state or country. Another use is the recording of music that can be used during the society meeting.

Some churches have a record library of religious music and devotional messages. Such records can be used in the society for variety at the opening of the meeting or as special music during the program. Music helps to set the tone of a meeting and can be a vital element in producing a worshipful atmosphere.

### ROLE-PLAYING AND DRAMA

Role-playing can be a very effective way of bringing to life a specific present-day situation. It is simply acting the part of another person. This audio-visual medium can help an individual see himself more objectively and as others see him.

Drama would include not only plays or skits but also shadow plays and tableau. Drama portrays a story or event; it can be presented as pantomime using only actions and no dialogue, or it can be presented using both actions and dialogue, or it can be a still picture which is called a tableau, where there is neither dialogue nor action. All of these can be presented as a shadow play using a semi-transparent screen or piece of material with the actors behind it and between a projected light. This gives a silhouetted effect and can reduce to a minimum the need for costuming and make-up.

### PHOTOGRAPHS, FLAT PICTURES, AND SLIDES

Photographs, flat pictures, and slides can enhance many society meetings concerned with the life of Christ, r sions, and church history. This f of visual presentation can go far bey just illustrating a subject; it can be u as a worship center or focus of att tion. A picture of Sallman's *Head Christ* properly displayed and ligh can change chaos into a devotio meeting. A projected slide relating the theme of the meeting can have same effect. Just because flat pictu are used in the primary and junior partments does not mean that they not effectively be used in your socie

Objects and symbols should also employed in setting up a worship cent With a little imagination much can done with just the symbols of the Chi tian faith.

### OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

The common chalkboard should be overlooked as a vital visual aid your society program. Words, phras and names can be better understo and retained if they can be seen. D grams and graphs can be of help wh discussing periods of time such as t life of Christ or the Old Testame prophets.

The bulletin board and poster shou not be forgotten as the society me week after week. Attractive and ch lenging bulletin boards and posters c bring renewed interest and participati in your society.

A flip chart made of a number large sheets of paper fastened togeth at one end is another means of p senting an illustrated talk. The drawi can either be done before the meeti or while the topic is being present

The flannelgraph used for years w younger children can be very useful junior high and senior high societi Careful pre-planning will result in number of uses for this visual aid.

An opaque projector is a device th makes it possible to project any print matter or pictures on a screen. T makes it possible to share with the ciety pictures and diagrams too small view as a group.

Christ has commissioned His follo ers to proclaim the Gospel to all peop We must do this with all that we ha at our disposal. Audio-visuals can a ment, complement, and supplement t important task. Audio-visuals prope used in your society can mean a newed interest and vitality. Try th and see the results.

# Topics FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

Topic 1 in a Unit: The Book of Books

# *My Favorite Book*

Psalm 119:97-105

## Our Aims

1. To show Junior Highs that the Bible is a book of many books.
2. To encourage Junior Highs to read the Bible.

## ggested Program Outline

e-Prayer Service
ll to Worship
mn: *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story*
ripture Reading: Psalm 119:97-105
ayer by Counselor: (emphasis on the Bible as God's Word)
nouncements and Offering
ymn: *Send the Light*
ader's Introduction
pic: My Favorite Book
lk by Librarian
osing Hymn: *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*
izpah Benediction

## ublicity Suggestion

Prepare a poster entitled *Best Seller urned! Why?* Come to Christian En-avor, time, date, and place. Have the me of the librarian on the poster if ssible. A drawing of a book being veloped in flames should highlight e poster.

## o the Leader

1. Time is needed to consider the nportance of this meeting through rayer and study. Teen-agers are being nstantly beseiged by obscene litera-re. Here is a chance to place strong mphasis on God's Word and its place the life of each Endeavorer.

2. Appoint someone with artistic bility to make an eye catching poster. possible send out personal invitations all teen-agers you would like to inter-st in Christian Endeavor. Work with our lookout committee.

3. If you do not type or have access a duplicating machine ask your ounselor to assist you in providing pies of twenty of the best short stories the Bible. Distribute the copies at e end of your topic just prior to in-oducing the librarian.

4. Be sure to allow enough time to ntact a librarian at least a month in dvance. Outline your topic and give some idea of what you expect from her. Don't forget to give thanks for her efforts both during and following the meeting.

5. Try to add color to this meeting by having colorful book jackets posted on a tack board so as to form a background to the topic. The title, *My Favorite Book,* could be the caption. The librarian might be able to provide you with colorful book jackets. Remember any effort to brighten the meeting will enhance Christian Endeavor to any newcomers who might be guests.

6. Besides the tack board mentioned above have a chalkboard set up in order to aid you in presenting the topic.

7. You need a good warm Christian Endeavor welcome to any newcomers. Make sure they will want to come back.

## The Best Seller

Have you ever selected a library book simply because of an attractive cover? Have you been disappointed with its contents? Have you selected a best seller only to find that it didn't meet with your approval? There is a book that is unique. It has no need to possess a gaudy cover yet it continues to be the best seller because it satisfies the variety of needs that readers seek. The Bible is still the world's best seller.

In one year, enough copies were distributed to average forty-seven for every minute of every hour, night and day. Hundreds of thousands of copies are given away yearly, but the Bible still sells by the millions. No other book can equal its record.

We know that the writers of the Bible were not all learned men, as we use that term today. But their great works have lived and been read as have no others. Mainly this is because they have been received as the Word of God. Yet part of the reason is the beauty of the writing and translation. A few centuries ago it would have been a great offence to speak of the beauty of the style of the Bible. Men believed that the Bible was too sacred to be studied as other books are studied. Early copies of the Bible were burned along with their translators. Yes, the world's best seller was burned at one time in history!

In recent years the Bible has been studied for its beautiful style. English Literature is full of references to the Bible. Entire novels have been written about Biblical characters and events. However, it is the style of the Bible itself which has drawn most praise and admiration from the English speaking world. The Bible has a beautiful style in all languages. Its sentences often have a natural rise and fall with each part balanced against each other, as in this example: "He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand; he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure." Its words call vivid pictures to the mind. "Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern." It has many phrases, such as "and Abraham was old and full of days," which have a special charm. The King James Version was completed during one of the greatest periods in the history of English Literature. This fact accounts for much of the beauty of its style.

## The Literature the Bible Contains

The Bible is enriched by several types of literature such as war songs, laments, proverbs, prayers, poetry, and prophetic writings. Each in its own way tells about

*(Continued on next page)*

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God's promises to those that are faithful to Him. Among these are those of poetical form such as the book of Psalms, Lamentations, and the Song of Solomon. The Book of Job seeks to explain the ways of God to man. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes contain rules for living and sayings of practical wisdom. The Book of Ruth tells the beautiful story of Ruth's love and devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Books of Adventure, history, law, letters to churches and to individuals also provide this wide range of appeal for anyone who appreciates good literature.

If a boy and a girl were sent to a local library to select books for a literary club, what type of books would they select in order to meet the individual needs of their fellow members? (Wait for responses. List them on a chalkboard if available. Some would be biographies, mysteries, romances, nursing stories, sports stories, animal stories, science fiction.)

The Bible is able to meet the diversity of needs more aptly than you may think. Most of us have been exposed to the short story. Edgar Allen Poe and O. Henry were masters of this literary trade. The average teenager likes adventure stories.

## Best Bible Short Stories

(Following is a list of twenty of the best short stories in the Bible. Supply a mimeographed list to each person if possible.)

Joseph, Genesis 37, 39-48.
Balaam and Balak, Numbers 22-24.
The Capture of Jericho, Joshua 6.
The Wars of Gideon, Judges 6-8.
Jephthah's Daughter, Judges 11.
Samson, Judges 14-16.
Ruth, the entire book.
David and Goliath, I Samuel 17.
David and Jonathan, I Samuel 18-20.
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal, I Kings 18.
Naboth's Vineyard, I Kings 21.
The Ascension of Elijah, II Kings 2.
Esther, The entire book.
The Three Hebrew Children, Daniel 3.
Daniel in the Lion's Den, Daniel 6.
Jonah, The entire book.
The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37.
The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32.
The Healing of the Lame Man, John 5:1-9.
The Shipwreck of Saint Paul, Acts 27.

These short stories of the Bible will meet the need for adventure desired by most teenagers. Have you read all of them? Would you use this list by reading or rereading all of them in the next few weeks?

Have present at the meeting a local librarian. Give her sufficient time to outline the importance of reading skills, reading habits or any aspect of reading that will help to promote a better approach to Bible reading. If a local librarian is not available it is quite possible that your church librarian might present similar emphases. In both instances systematic Bible reading should be encouraged.

## Closing the Meeting

Perhaps there is some person in your society or the church you would especially like to honor for his or her contribution to Christian Endeavor. This would be an ideal time to present a Christian Endeavor New Testament. Such a gift would help to reinforce the emphasis of the whole meeting. The Christian Endeavor New Testament can be ordered from the International Society of Christian Endeavor. It has the Christian Endeavor emblem stamped on the front cover.

Take time to recognize that you are thankful for the presence of any newcomers. Try to encourage the bringing of Bibles or testaments to all future meetings. Remind the members to read or reread the list they have received.

## Other Methods of Presentation

At least three weeks before the meeting assign members of the society the various sections of the Bible such as; law, poetry, history, letters, etc. Have each one tell something about the books contained in these sections. You will need to borrow commentaries and Bible dictionaries from your pastor or the church library. Your counselor will be able to help the young people as they prepare their reports.

You may want to assign some of the Scripture references under the section entitled *Best Bible Short Stories* and have two minute reports presented on each at the society meeting.

## Questions for Discussion

1. *How can Junior Highs understand what they read in the Bible?*
2. *Make a list of the many helps available to assist in understanding the Bible.*
3. *Why is it important to read and understand the Bible?*
4. *Why is the Bible still a best seller?*

## Responsive Reading

**Leader:** Here, O heavens, and give ear, O e
for the Lord hath spoken.

**Group:** Blessed is the man . . . whose delig
in the Law of the Lord: in His Law do
meditate day and night.

**Leader:** He shall be like a tree planted by
of water . . . whatsoever he doeth shall pro

**Group:** O earth, earth, earth, hear the Wo
the Lord.

**Leader:** The Word of our God shall stand
ever.

**Group:** Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settle
heaven.

**Leader:** Wherewithal shall a young man cle
his way? By taking heed thereto, accordin
Thy Word.

**Group:** The Law of God is in his heart: non
his steps shall slide.

**Leader:** Heaven and earth shall pass away;
my word shall not pass away.

**Group:** Man shall not live by bread alone,
by every Word that proceedeth out of the m
of God.

**Leader:** Receive with meekness the engra
Word, which is able to save your soul.

**Group:** Blessed are they that hear the Word
God, and keep it.

**Leader:** From a child thou hast known the H
Scriptures, which are able to make thee w
unto salvation.

**Group:** All Scripture is given by inspiration
God, and is profitable for doctrine, for repro
for correction, and for instruction in righteo
ness;

**Leader:** That the man of God may be perf
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

**Group:** The Word of God . . . liveth and abid
forever.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Nov. 25 Harmful Books Acts 19:17
T. Nov. 26 A Choice of Many Books Ecclesiastes 12:8
W. Nov. 27 A Book of History I Samuel 10:23
T. Nov. 28 A Book of Testimony Job 19:23
F. Nov. 29 An Inspired Book Jeremiah 36:1
S. Nov. 30 A Book of Prophecy Revelation 22:17
**Sun. Dec 1—Topic: My Favorite Book Psalm 119:97**

Comments by Earl N. Plato, a school principal Crystal Beach, Ontario, Canada

**Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.**

Topic 2 in a Unit: The Book of Books

# "The Sword of the Spirit"

Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 4:12

(Universal Bible Sunday)

## Our Aims

1. To encourage Junior Highs to use the "Sword of the Spirit" for answers to their problems, and as a guide throughout life.
2. To emphasize that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

## ggested Program

-Prayer Service
lude: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*
(During the playing of this hymn, heads should be bowed, and somebody should read the words of the hymn.)
ought Provoker: Hebrews 4:12
mn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
ayer
mn: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
ader's Introduction
ble Memorization
mn: *Stand Up for Jesus*
estions
stimonies
ecial Music or Chorus Singing
ble Quiz
fering: The money could be used toward buying a Bible for a needy person.
uiet Hour Emphasis or Recruiting
osing Prayer and Meditation: Have somebody read the armor of God as found in Ephesians 6:13-18.

## ublicity

Cut out swords, and write on them e date, time, and place of the meetg. Distribute these at the previous eeting for those present to give to abnt members and other teen-agers in ie community who are not attending outh meetings.

Make a poster with a Bible and a vord. Write on it, *Be a Swordsman,* gether with the date, time, and place meeting.

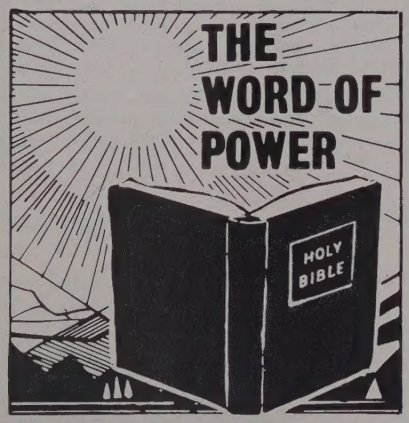
## dditional Preparation

Collect various Bibles including different translations and those of other eligions. Have each person bring his wn Bible.

The devotional committee may want o arrange a display of various Bibles nd translations in the church foyer. See the section entitled *Resource Materials* for suggestions.

## eader's Introduction

"The Sword of the Spirit" is our opic, and it is very fitting since this is Universal Bible Sunday. Swords are veapons used to chase the enemy, and good swordsman doesn't miss.




Let us look at our Scripture together. Turn to Luke 4:1-13. (As you read have different ones look up the same selection from different translations such as *The Amplified New Testament* and *The New English Bible.* Give them a chance to state any differences that they observe.

In this Scripture, we see Satan attempting to foil God's plan for our salvation; each time Jesus answered with Scripture. Satan came back quoting Scripture as in verse 10, but Jesus refused to obey him one iota. When we give Satan one finger, he grabs for the whole body, mind, and soul. He wants us to break down or compromise even just a little so that he can get more.

In verse 13, it says that Satan left Jesus for a season. This means that he tempted Jesus later. But Jesus was victorious to the end, and we will be victorious also if we use "The Sword of the Spirit." Bible memorization is a tremendous help when we are tempted.

## Bible Memorization

Use Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119:11 or any other verse you may choose. Have the verse copied on the chalkboard previously. Then have everybody read it together. Then erase one word, and have everybody reread the verse. Following this erase another word or two, and have the group read it in unison again. Continue this procedure until all of the words have been erased. Finally have a volunteer recite the verse.

## Testimonies

(Have different Junior Highs play the parts of the following individuals.)

1. *From a mechanic that works in a garage*: I gave my heart to God at the age of 14 in a church service. He is a wonderful Saviour to me. In Matthew 6:33 we read, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." I have found that He will supply all these things if we trust in Him because His word is true. I love my God because He first loved me, and gave His life on Calvary for my sins, and the sins of the world.

In Galatians 2:20, we read, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

2. *From a school teacher*: In the Old Testament God directed Israel's leaders who helped the people to obey the commandments of God.

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit guided and empowered the mission of the Christian leaders just as the Christians in every walk of life are guided today to bring others closer to the Saviour.

As a Christian teacher, I too must walk and live by the Spirit. I must be aglow with the Spirit. I am promised the fruit of the Spirit—such things as love, joy, patience, and self-control as mentioned in Galatians 5:22. These things are so necessary to my character that I could not enter the classroom without them. It is very humbling to know that my 29 students were given life and breadth from the Almighty, and that some day they must return to Him. Knowing that I play an important role in molding their minds, attitudes, and beliefs, and knowing that I have a responsibility in preparing them for the adventure, I must don the armor of a Christian.

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Above all I receive from the Word and the Spirit constant help. Each day before I leave home, on bended knee, I pray for the patience and grace to be upright in all my dealings.

As I leave the school each afternoon, I am conscious of the day being ended —a day that can't be relived. There are things that I have done that can't be undone, and there are things I should have done, but the time is past. It is only through the grace of my Saviour, the love of God, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit that I am able to face the fast approaching new day with confidence.

3. *From a young IBM worker*: In my daily work, I sometimes get discouraged. Then I think of the first six verses of the fourteenth chapter of John. This brings peace to my heart for it tells me that there is a home waiting for me in Heaven. To me there is no better comfort to the soul and body than to sit down and read the Bible, and find out the way Jesus has taken care of our eternal life.

Jesus died for our sins, and I want to be in His glory when my time comes. Being a Christian takes away the fear of death.

4. *From a university student*: The Christian student on a large campus finds that other views besides his own have first place with others. In John 1:1 we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This is what we Christians believe, but we cannot prove this to anyone except as the Holy Spirit works in their lives.

I have found that a firm belief in God's eternal existence and creative power can allow one to see all of life in its proper perspective or way. Giving God a chance by searching the Scriptures can answer many of our questions. Some of the folklore which we have learned may have to go as we realize what God really says to us.

There are questions which God has not seen fit to fully answer in my life. Yet I believe that these may be answered in time. I have found that Jesus is speaking to me when he says, ". . . that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

5. *From a Christian businessman*: The Bible, the Sword of the Spirit, was first used in my life to bring real conviction of sin and a knowledge of my lost condition before God. At the age of nine I was led to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, realizing that His shedding of blood on Calvary was the only means of cleansing my sin. I John 1:9.

At the age of seventeen God again used His word, Romans 12:1, to challenge me to dedicate my life to Him to do whatever He would ask. This has been a real satisfaction to me to know that day by day He has never failed, but has blessed me in so many ways that I cannot count them all.

As a businessman who was not trained for business, the Lord through His word has been my source of wisdom, strength, and direction. The word of God has molded my life. He has enabled me to do what I have done, and to be what I am through His grace and glory. I need His word daily.

### Questions for Discussion

**1. What influence did the Reformation have upon the increased use of the Bible?**

**2. How has the Bible affected literature?**

**3. If the Bible were taken out of music, would music be as inspiring?**

**4. Give an example from your life showing how you were helped by a particular verse of Scripture which you recalled from memory.**

**5. Are all books labeled, "Bible" the same? Must we carefully read different versions in order to fully understand God's Word?**

## Bible Quiz

Ask each person to turn to Ephesians 6:10-20, Acts 9:1-31 or any other chosen passage. Give them a few minutes to read it silently. When the allotted time is ended, ask them to close their Bibles. Then give them paper, and have them answer 10 objective questions. (If these questions could be typed for each person, it would help.) Then read the answers and see who did the best.

An alternate approach would be to use an oral quiz. Have it announced the week before that there is going to be a quiz on who, what, when, and where on the first eight chapters of Esther, chosen chapters from Genesis or any other Scripture you may select.

At the meeting, divide up into two groups and see which group gets the most points. In either case, the best student could be given a miniature Bible.

## To the Counselor

If possible secure bibles of cults non-evangelical religions, and by me of comparison with the Bible show h they have left out the deity of Jes the cross, and the resurrection.

If the opportune time seems av able speak about the use of the Qu Hour, and secure recruits for it.

Regarding the armor of God, so body such as the youth leader or p tor could give a five or ten min talk about the armor. Several ye ago there was a poster of the armor God with teaching aids from a da vacation Bible school course. With there was a man with each part of t armor that could be placed on t body as indicated. If this is availab have it on display or use it in conne tion with the program.

Follow-up this meeting with repo next week of experiences of how t sword of the spirit helped.

Quiet Hour enrollment cards can secured from the International Socie of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Bro Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. T price is $2.50 per hundred or 35c p dozen.

## Resource Materials

The American Bible Society offers whole host of materials that can a to the presentation of this topic. Th have filmstrips and 16mm motion p tures for rental on the history of t Bible. There are many helpful pamphl that can be purchased and distribut at this meeting. Bible displays may borrowed from the Bible Society. I formation concerning these materials c be secured by writing the Americ Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, Ne York 22, New York.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 2 The Lord's Battle
I Samuel 17:38-

T. Dec. 3 Power Against the Enemy
Psalm 91:1-

W. Dec. 4 God's Word Needed for Life
Deuteronomy 8:1

T. Dec. 5 God's Word Endureth
I Peter 1:23-

F. Dec. 6 Our Spiritual Warfare
II Corinthians 10:3

S. Dec. 7 A Sufficient Armor
Romans 13:11-

**Sun. Dec. 8—Topic: "The Sword of the Spir**
**Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 4:**
**(Universal Bible Sunday)**

**Comments by Erma L. Funk, Greencastle, Pen sylvania, an elementary schoolteacher and form missionary in Sierra Leone under the Unit Brethren in Christ Church**

Topic 3 in a Unit: The Book of Books

# Keep the Bible First

Psalm 119:9-16

## ggested Program

-Prayer Service (with the leader, ounselor, and all participants in the rogram, especially participating)
l to Worship: Psalm 119:1-5
ggested Hymns: *Break Thou the Bread of Life; I Love to Tell the Story; We've a Story to Tell to the Nations, Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah.*
ipture Reading: Psalm 119:9-16
yer Chorus: *Spirit of the Living God*
yer
nouncements and Offering
ecial Music
sentation of the Topic
easure Hunt in Psalm 119
ader's Talk
lks on the Bible: The Author, the Content, and the Main Theme.
lk on Making the Bible First in Life
nsecration Service
nediction.

## lling Others

There are several things the leader n do to announce the meeting. The lowing suggestions should be adapted use in your church.

1. Arrange a table display in a prom-nt place where your Junior High ends will see it. On the table can be own various things which give light ch as lanterns, lamps, flashlights, tches, etc., and pictures or models lighthouses and beacons. In the cen-, display a Bible opened to Psalm 9 and run a ribbon from verse 130 a card on which the words, "The trance of thy words giveth light" are nted. On this card or another, give details of your meeting—time, ace, and topic.

2. If the table arrangement is not actical or possible, the same idea can presented on posters. A picture of y of the items which provide light n be used with such captions as, *is lantern will brighten your camp.* drawing or picture of the Bible could captioned with such words as: *But e Bible brings God's light into our es.* Of course, you will also want to ve the details of your meeting on the ster.

3. Or a table could be used with a display of various reading materials along with a Bible. The announcement card would give the topic, *Keep the Bible First,* and the details of the meeting. A poster could also be used to express this same thought.

4. Don't forget your local newspaper and church bulletin as sources of publicity.

## For the Leader

This is the last in a series of three topics on the Bible. The two previous topics have provided the basis for you and other Junior High youth to choose the Word of God as your own source of help and strength. As the leader of this topic, you have the responsibility of challenging your friends to "Keep the Bible First" in their lives.

To best do this, you will want the strength and help of the Holy Spirit. Begin your preparation now with prayer, asking God to help you in understanding the topic and in choosing those who will share in its presentation.

The suggested program includes a treasure hunt in Psalm 119, a leader's talk, three brief talks by others, a closing talk pointing out practical ways in which the Bible can be first in our lives, and a closing consecration service. These items are all suggestive and *you* should choose from them that which you feel your society will enjoy and find profitable. There are probably more items than you can use and it is better to do two or three things well than several things quickly and poorly.

The most important item is the consecration service in which you and your group will renew that part of the pledge in which the promise is made to "make it the rule of my life to pray and read the Bible." You may want to order from the International Society of Christian Endeavor these two items for use in the consecration service: *What Is the Quiet Hour?* and *Quiet Hour Enrollment Cards.*

As a part of your preparation, you may wish to arrange a display of Bibles and helpful books for use in Bible study.

### Our Aims

1. To make the Bible first in the reading habits of every Junior High.
2. To show the necessity and value of keeping the Bible first in everyday experiences.
3. To motivate a real love for the Bible as the Word of God.

Older members of your congregation may have very old copies of the Bible which will have interesting stories connected with them. These, along with newer Bibles and different translations should be placed on a table along with Bible dictionaries, atlases, concordances, and other study helps. Be sure to include the Christian Endeavor edition of the *New Testament with Psalms.*

## Treasure Hunt

As an interest builder and warm up for the topic, ask the group to quickly search through Psalm 119. They should write down as many items as they can, which the psalmist has noted that God's Word does for us as His children. Make certain that the group understands that when the psalmist speaks of the law, precepts, commandments, etc., he is referring to God's Word.

This hunt may be done individually or as teams of two or three persons. About ten minutes should be long enough for them to find several items. Ask each individual or team to say a few words about one of the things or treasures they have found.

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A few treasures which they may find are: *cleansing* in verse 9, *safeguard against sin* in verse 11, *counselor* in verse 24, *quickening* in verse 93, *source of understanding* in verse 104, and *illumination* in verses 105 and 130.

## Leader's Talk

Many young people say they can't appreciate the Bible because they don't believe some of the miracles about which it tells. They doubt the truth of these stories because they miss the miracles in their own lives. They don't know that many scientists are Christians and love the Bible because they see in the miracles of modern life the hand of God.

A few years ago people were called crackpots for dreaming about pictures being sent through the air, or about airplanes which could fly faster than sound, or about men in space. Many people in the church insisted that these things could never be—it would just be against God's will. But we now enjoy television in our homes, jet aircraft leave their contrails in the skies above and men are reaching for the moon.

Are the miracles of the Bible really so fantastic? What would Noah have said to the idea of a space capsule orbiting the earth? or what would Peter have thought of modern religious television and radio broadcasting as it reaches millions of persons? They probably would have thought these things impossible except God should do them.

And they would have been right because these modern miracles are the gift of God. The same God who cared for the children of Israel, who gave sight to the blind, also gave Edison the intelligence with which to invent a light to make use of the electricity which God had put in the world at creation. All of the natural laws which make our modern miracles possible have been a part of God's gifts to us from the very beginning.

Other young people reject the Bible because they do not want to submit their lives to its commandments. They declare that they can serve and love God without accepting the narrowness of the commandments expressed in the Bible. They claim they are following the positive teachings of Jesus Christ and his example and that the laws are not meant for our lives.

Still others reject the teachings of the Bible concerning God's wrath and punishment of sin. They say that they do not believe that a God of love could ever punish anyone for wrongs they have committed.

But many young people have expressed their faith in the Bible. A book, *Teenager, the Bible Speaks to You,* by W. Riess, published by Concordia Publishing House has many expressions from Senior and Junior High youth about the Bible and their lives. Secure a copy of this book and have various members read some of the comments made by youth.

The psalmist wrote that he loved the Word of God more than gold (verse 127). But why should teen-agers like yourself choose the Bible above all else? Let's look at three reasons:

1. *God is the Author of the Bible*

The Bible is not like any other book in the world. Though its words were written by many men, it has but just one author—God.

Through this book, God helps us to know Him and His will for our lives. That is why the psalmist said that the entrance of the Word of God brings light into our lives (verse 129). Just as a light shining in the darkness helps us to see, so the Bible helps us to see the truth about ourselves and God. And we can trust the Bible to be the whole truth because God has given it to us.

2. *The Content of the Bible*

The Bible tells us God's will. It tells us the history of God's people, the laws by which they are to live, and the promises God has given. The New Testament tells us how Jesus Christ fulfilled the perfect will of God in both the law and the promises. It also tells us of the faithfulness of the early Christians and how we can serve God.

3. *The Main Theme of the Bible*

The theme of the Bible is summed up in John 3:16 where we read of God's great love for man. Martin Luther called the Bible the "cradle of Christ." What he meant was, that from the very beginning of the Word, God has promised us his love. Jesus Christ is shown in the New Testament as expressi all of God's love for us as he redee us from sin and makes us the child of God. From the beginning to the e the Bible tells us how we are to l in fellowship with God and to en all the wonderful gifts he has gi to us in creation and salvation.

### For Discussion

**1. What do we really mean when we say that the Bible is the Word of God?**

**2. How has He inspired men to write its words?**

**3. How can we understand the Bible better?**

**4. How can we share its truths with others?**

## Making the Bible First in Life

How grateful we should be for book that brings us closer to God, o Creator and Heavenly Father. We a fortunate to have such a revelation His love. We should read it every da reverently and studiously, for "the la of the Lord is perfect, converting t soul: the testimony of the Lord is su making wise the simple. The statutes the Lord are right, rejoicing the hea the commandment of the Lord is pur enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:7,8

Thousands of other young peop have discovered love, power, and jo in choosing the Bible as the guide their lives. You too can share in th blessing by doing these things:

1. Make a friend and companion the Bible. You should read the Bib every day, discovering for yourselv the promises of God for your lives. is a good practice to mark with re pencil the verses which are especiall meaningful to you.

2. Choose a particular verse as you for the day. Make it your source of i spiration as you work or play. As th psalmist did, hide that word in you heart that you may be strengthened faith against sin.

3. When you feel alone and discou aged, don't feel sorry for yourself- don't give into the temptation of thin ing that no one cares for you. Remem ber that God does care and His Boo is filled with words of love and co cern. When you are faced with choic and problems, turn to God in praye asking Him to reveal His will to yo in His Word.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 9 God's Word Gives Light Psalm 119:129-1

T. Dec. 10 God's Word Gives Life Ezekiel 37:1-

W. Dec. 11 God's Word Remembered Deuteronomy 11:16-

T. Dec. 12 God's Word Is Truth John 17:13-

F. Dec. 13 God's Word Is Sure II Peter 1:19-

S. Dec. 14 God's Word Is Profitable II Timothy 3:14-

**Sun. Dec. 15—Topic: Keep the Bible First** Psalm 119:9-

Comments by Rev. George Weaver, pastor the Otterbein United Brethren in Christ Church Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

# s Christ n Our hristmas?

atthew 2:1-11
hristmas Sunday)

## Introduction and Aims

In this meeting, the following points are suggested as goals:

1. Remind each member once again of the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ.
2. Discuss the many ways people celebrate Christmas, and decide which ones are Christ-centered.
3. Encourage each individual in your society to keep Christ foremost in his Christmas activities.
4. Encourage the society to be sure its special group activities during the Christmas season are Christ-centered, and for His glory.

## uggested Program

re-prayer Service
pening Song: *Hallelujah! What a Saviour*
ong Service: *O Come, All Ye Faithful; Joy to the World; O Little Town of Bethlehem*
rayer, Offering, Announcements
eader's Introduction
nterviews
cripture Presentation
Discussion
Counselor's Closing Thoughts
entence Prayers
Closing Song: *Silent Night*
Benediction

## uggestions for the Leader

Use the material here as a guide, ut not to be read word for word. The nterviews, especially, will be most effective if given in an "impromptu" manner. Feel free to add to or change what the characters say, to make them it your own community, so they will pply directly to the lives of the members of your group.

Use your imagination to make the nterviews seem authentic. Perhaps this part of the program could be pre-recorded and played back on a tape recorder during the meeting, like an "On the Street" radio program.

Make the discussion period a discussion, not just questions and answers. Try to get all of the group to participate in deciding which characters included Christ in their Christmas.

Perhaps some of the people present would like to share meaningful experiences they have had on Christmas, which might be ways others could include Christ in their Christmas.

Here is another possibility for personalizing the meeting even more: sometime during the song service, ask each member present to write down what he is looking forward to most during the Christmas holidays. (Be sure pencils and paper are available.) Have them keep their own papers, but lay them aside so they cannot change what they have written. Later, during the counselors closing thoughts, he could have each member look again at what he wrote, and decide for himself whether it is in keeping with the theme of the meeting. No one should see the papers but the people who write them, but it will make each person think what is most important to him at Christmas, and whether or not it is Christ-centered.

Remember that no meeting can be successful without praying for God's help and guidance.

## Publicity Ideas

1. Find pictures on Christmas cards or in magazines showing different Christmas scenes, or people engaged in various Christmas activities. Put several of these on each poster, with the question, *Is Christ in this Christmas?* Be sure to include the date, time, and place of the meeting.

2. Christmas is an especially good time for the lookout committee to encourage the less-faithful members to attend. Send postcards or make telephone calls to each member of the society, to be sure everyone knows about the meeting.

## Leader's Introduction

Christmas is a busy time of the year for all of us! There are so many activities and things to do which make claims on our time. There are special school activities, parties, Christmas concerts and programs, shopping, decorating, and many more. Sometimes, with so much going on, it is hard for us to know what is really important; it's hard to know what deserves our greatest interest and energies. Tonight we are going to try to discover what really should be important to Christians at Christmas-time.

## Interviews

*Interviewer* (may be Leader, or another member of the group): This evening we have asked several people to answer some questions for us about their feelings at Christmas, and the way they like to celebrate. First, let's talk to Helen Holly. Helen, would you tell us what you like best about the Christmas season?

*Helen Holly*: Everything is so beautiful at Christmas-time! There are decorations and colored lights, Christmas trees, and pretty Christmas cards. I love to go shopping and see all the things in the stores. Of course, the best part of the holiday is opening your gifts on Christmas morning!

*Interviewer*: Thank you, Helen. Next we have Harry Holiday. What's important to you during the Christmas season, Harry?

*Harry Holiday*: I like the chance to relax during the vacation. It's really great to get out of school for a few days. It gives you a chance to get in lots of sledding or ice skating if the weather's right. (Substitute other activities for warmer climates.) Then too, you can always count on an extra-spe-

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cial Christmas dinner. Afterwards there's plenty of time to enjoy all the presents you got!

*Interviewer*: Sounds like you really enjoy your Christmas, Harry. Here's another young lady. Mary Mistletoe, do you look forward to Christmas as much as Harry does?

*Mary Mistletoe*: I sure do! There are so many things going on, I can hardly keep up. There are parties and special activities at school almost every night. It's always fun to get some new clothes to wear to church on Sunday, too.

*Interviewer*: This next girl's name is Judy Joy. Judy, tell us what Christmas means to you.

*Judy Joy*: Christmas is a time when we can share our happiness with others. It's so wonderful to see so many smiling faces and cheerful greetings during the holidays. I enjoy caroling for sick people, delivering Christmas baskets to needy people, and going to hospitals to help with programs and celebrations there.

*Interviewer*: That must be a wonderful way to spend Christmas, Judy. We have one more young man to talk to. This is Peter Peace. Peter, how do you like to spend the holidays?

*Peter Peace*: I enjoy the special church programs and activities during the Christmas season. After all, we are celebrating Christ's birth, so how can you better spend it than in His house, worshiping Him?

*Interviewer*: Thank you all for sharing with us your thoughts this Christmas.

## Presentation of Scripture

We have heard what five people think is most important during the Christmas season. Let's think for a few minutes about how Christmas really began. We all know that neary 2,000 years ago Christ was born, and this was the first Christmas. (Read Luke 2:6,7.) It is this birth of our Saviour which is the real story of Christmas. This holiday would not exist if He had not come into the world at the manger in Bethlehem.

There were people present at this first Christmas. Let's see what they did to celebrate Christ's birth. First, there were the angels. They sang praises to God for sending His Son into the world. (Read Luke 2:13,14.) The shepherds were the first to hear the news of His birth. They went immediately to worship the newborn King, and then went out and told others of His miraculous birth. (Read Luke 2:15-18.) Finally, there were the wise men. They traveled many miles, and even were questioned by the king, before they finally found the Christ-child. Then they worshiped Him, and presented their gifts. (Read Matthew 2:1-11.)

The angels sang praises to God; the shepherds worshiped Him, and went out to tell others about Him; the wise men, too, worshiped Him, and gave Him precious gifts. These were the ways people celebrated on the first Christmas.

## Questions for Discussion

**Use the following questions as a guide for the group discussion.**

**1. What is the real meaning of Christmas? How did the people celebrate who were present at the first Christmas?**

**2. Consider again the statements made by each of the people in the interviews. Compare the way they celebrate Christmas with the way people celebrated on the first Christmas. What were the good and bad ideas each had about what is important at Christmas. Which ones (if any) had Christ in their Christmas?**

**3. Is Christ in our Christmas? In what ways can we as Christians be sure that Christ is foremost in our Christmas celebrations? What activities can we do as a group that will be Christ-centered?**

## Counselor's Closing Thoughts

Close the meeting by presenting a challenge to the group to make Christ central in their Christmas celebrations. This is an opportunity to sum up the discussion and the theme of the meeting, and perhaps add more specific ways they can include Christ in their celebrations. Lead directly into a period of sentence or silent prayers. The prayer period could be directed toward giving Christ a higher place in their lives, not only during Christmas, but throughout the year.

## Suggestions for the Counselor

As you advise the society in their activities during the Christmas season, be sure that they are Christ-centered and planned to glorify Him. Don't let the members become involved in meaningless activity.

Be ready to suggest ways the young people can individually include Christ in their Christmas celebrations, also.

## Suggested Activities

Remember that all activities should relate to the way the first Christmas was celebrated: praise God, worship C give gifts, tell others.

Be sure that all the young people l about the special church services and grams during the Christmas season. courage all your members to take pa these events. Offer to assist the ministe any way possible. Perhaps your g could present a special program or p If your church is decorated at Christ time, this would be a good opportunit offer your services in helping. You m also help in preparing or delivering Ch mas baskets to families or hospitals.

Caroling parties can be meaningful both the carolers and those caroled t there is a hospital or children's home n you could prepare and present a spe program for them.

Encourage your parents to send Ch mas cards that refer to the true Christ story. You might make some signs for y church, suggesting that everyone do same.

Many stores shorten Christmas to Xm If there is a business district near, might try having a campaign to cha Xmas to Christmas. Notes or visits to m chants could explain why it is import to not forget the real meaning of Chr mas. Most businesses will be glad to kn of your interest and be happy to cooper

## Alternate Program Ideas

Study and discuss the origins of many Christmas customs. Several them have religious beginnings. Dec which customs still keep Christ in Christmas.

Gift-giving is an important part Christmas. Discuss the various reas for giving gifts, (out of love, in ret for another, because it's expected, et and the various ways a gift may be ceived. Compare these with the r sons why Christ was given to the wo and the way He was received.

Give consideration to sponsoring Christmas holiday safety campaign. packet of materials can be secured writing National Safety Council, 4 North Michigan Avenue, Chica Illinois 60611. The Christmas saf campaign is sponsored by a natio committee of religious leaders.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 16 The One Mediator I Timothy 2
T. Dec. 17 God Manifest in the Flesh I Timothy 3
W. Dec. 18 The Word Made Flesh John 1:1
T. Dec. 19 Angels Sing Carols Luke 2:8
F. Dec. 20 Shepherds Worship Luke 2:15
S. Dec. 21 Christ Above All Luke 3:27
**Sun. Dec. 22—Topic: Is Christ in Our Christmas?** Matthew 2:1
**(Christmas Sunday)**

**Comments by Stephen Jacoby a student at O State University, Columbus, Ohio**

# Into the Future with Christ

John 15:1-7

(New Year's Sunday)

## Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Song Service: *O Worship the King; He Lives; I Shall See the King;* (Selection from group)
Opening Prayer
Scripture: John 15:1-7,11
Welcome to Visitors, Announcements, and Offering
Special Music: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* (or another appropriate selection.)
Leader's Introduction and Play
Speakers
Closing Song: *I Surrender All*
Friendship Circle

## For the Leader

The aim of our program is to show that before Christ left earth He told His disciples that if they would abide in Him continually, through the Holy Spirit, then they would be ready for His second coming.

*Into the Future with Christ* will only be as meaningful to those attending as the subject is to your own life. Do you sense the reality of Christ living in your heart? If you make the material set forth in the topic a part of your own thinking first, then you will have little trouble giving its meaning to others. Read the entire program through several times.

Christmas balls and angel hair, or other ways of portraying the space age, could be used on a poster that says, *Into the Future with Christ,* or the poster could be in the shape of a rocket

This New Year's program should be publicized highly. Invite those in Sunday school who are not members of your society, as well as friends from school. Use your own initiative in planning publicity, and above all, be sure that the program runs smoothly, and presents a challenge to all who attend.

## Leader's Introduction

To begin this play announce that the scene is a church in Antioch, where a small group of Christians have gathered shortly after the death of Christ. Read Titus 2:11-14 at the beginning. Parts should be memorized, and the characters should be gathered casually in a group.

*Levi*: It seems so strange that Christ is not here physically with us, and yet He promised that He is coming again. I wonder when it will be.

*Lydia*: I hope I am more prepared for His coming this time than I was at His birth.

*Anna*: I wasn't ready for His coming either. I did not think He had to offer what I was looking for in life. But, then I realized that He was offering eternal life to me, in addition to abundant life on earth. The only way to succeed is with Jesus.

*Lydia*: I know that I was not spiritually ready for His coming. I tried to make myself think I should not jump to the conclusion that anyone could be born in that miraculous way.

*Philip*: I was waiting for the crowd to sway my opinions. If a majority decided this carpenter was the Saviour of man, I was willing to accept it too, but I did not want to set myself apart.

*Levi*: God's children have always been in the minority. But we're glad that you are with us now.

*Nathan*: I thought God had forgotten His promise to send a Saviour. I was living as if God didn't care enough to punish us for our sins. When I heard that the Messiah had come, I laughed. Then I saw Him at Calvary, and knew I had been mocking the Son of God.

*Mary*: I was probably more convinced than any of you that Jesus was not the Saviour, because I did not take the Bible literally. There was no hope for my life, until I learned that God always means exactly what He says, whether He uses men to say it for Him or not.

*Simeon*: I knew that this Man must have been the Son of God, but I could not force myself to speak for Him. I was ashamed to be with a group considered by others to be too emotional and ignorant. Christ took away this feeling and replaced it with a zeal to tell all people about Him. I only wish I could commit myself to Christ as completely as Christ committed Himself to man. Then I would be most prepared for Him to come again.

*Nathan*: I am afraid of His next coming. I await it anxiously, but I do not think I will be very proud of what I have done with my life. If I could only be able to give Him a good report!

*Philip*: I heard the Master speaking about this very subject before His death. This was His answer: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."
(All exit.)

## Speaker 1

The Son of God came to earth, humbling Himself from His position of Lord of heaven, to be a servant of men on earth. He was rejected and crucified, but after His resurrection He again took His position in heaven as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In Colossians 1:15-19 Paul tells the Christians in Colosse what Christ is like. He says that Christ is the "image of God, who is invisible." He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible. He is the Head of the Church, and the first to ever raise Himself from the dead. He has all these powers so that in all areas of our own lives He might have preeminence, or, first place. In verse 19 Paul says that God wanted all of Himself to be in His Son. Paul wanted Christians everywhere to realize that Christ was more than a mere man, He was God Himself, who took the form

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of a humble servant, in order to save man from his sins. Christians need to realize the glory and power of Christ in order to properly know the meaning of John 15:1-7,11. (Read this.)

## Speaker 2

In the Book of the Revelation we see a glimpse into heaven, and see how Christ was exalted by His Father after the resurrection. John, in a vision, was transported to God's throne, and in Revelation 1:17 he wrote, "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as one dead." John was overcome with emotion to see Christ, with whom He had walked the dusty roads of Galilee, leaned on His breast at the Last Supper, and stood at the cross and watched Him die. But here was Christ surrounded by angels, and receiving greater magnificence than John had ever seen. It was the same blessed Saviour he had come to trust and adore on earth. But Christ is the same "yesterday, today, and forever," and in loving words He told John to not be afraid, "I am the first and the last; I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore." John's life had been changed when he first knew Christ as Saviour, but now he saw Him as King, and John could realize in a much greater way the power his Saviour possessed, and how important it was to "Abide in Me . . . for without Me ye can do nothing."

## Speaker 3

As Christian Endeavorers, we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for all our strength. To take a good part in our Christian Endeavor program, do schoolwork, and witness for Christ take more power and strength than we have in ourselves, and Christ says that we can do none of these things if we do not abide in Him and He in us. The disciples leaned heavily on Christ for guidance when He was on earth, but when He spoke the words of John 15, He was soon to leave them. They were frightened, confused, and sad. Christ then gave them the greatest comfort He could by talking with them about their future work. In John 14 He told them that He was going to send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts, to "teach you all things, and to bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you" (John 14:26). This is the greatest miracle of the Christian faith: that Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, can actually abide, or make His home, in the human heart, through the Holy Spirit. "These things have I spoken that your joy might be full," said Christ.

## Speaker 4

In verses 1-7 Christ explains the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He was to come to the disciples, to live in their hearts, and to help them live as Christians should. The "fruit" He mentions is not service actually, but Christian character. These character traits are listed in Galatians 5, "love, joy, peace, gentleness . . ."

The Holy Spirit, as long as He is unhindered by sin in the lives of the disciples, would help make the believer live like Christ. Christ even went so far as to say that if they allowed the Holy Spirit to work in their lives daily, and did not sin against Him, they would be abiding, or living, as the word means, and according to verse 7, they could ask anything and God would give it to them. If they allowed the Holy Spirit to direct their lives completely, their desires would be within God's will, and He would grant them. Endeavorers "trust" in the Lord Jesus Christ, and so we are able to promise to do whatever Christ would have us to do.

## Speaker 5

Because of Christ's gift of the Spirit, the Christian life is not a daily ritual of good deeds, nor is it necessary to make a long list of resolutions at the end of the year. It is a new life, lived by the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Our bodies are no longer our own, but are the temple of God.

The Christian life is not one of struggle, or fighting, but it is a life of surrender to Christ. If we just keep our lives clear from sin, then the Holy Spirit will show us what to do and help us to do it.

Christ told His friends that they could do even greater works after He was gone through the help of the Spirit. When we notice how weak our society is, or how slow our group is moving, or how few young people are brought to Christ, we should remember Christ's promise, and then investigate our own hearts. Are we allowing Christ to be seen in our lives?

## Speaker 6

The promise of Christ's second coming was also important to the disciples. When John saw the glory of Christ in the Revelation he said, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus." John was anxious that the entire world see Christ exalt and that the honor He should have be given at His first coming could be gi Him soon. The best preparation Chr could give for His next coming w that His disciples abide in Him. Th were to serve Christ, spread the Go pel throughout the world, and th one day Christ would return. He d not want them to be ashamed at H coming, and they need not be, if th abide daily. Our first Scripture in Tit 2:11-13 says that we should "live s berly and righteously, looking for t blessed hope and appearing of the glo of the great God and our Saviour, Jes Christ."

## Speaker 7

Our Christian Endeavor pledge one way we have of checking our live to see if we are allowing the Hol Spirit to work. Are we trusting in Chri daily for our strength? Are we doin what He wants? Are our conscientiou reasons given by Christ, or made up b ourselves?

Christ is calling youth to live fo Him, to stand up and speak for Him It is the call not only of Jesus the cruci fied, but Jesus the reigning Lord o heaven, and also Jesus the coming King If we have never known Him fully a Saviour, then how can we know Hi as King? Will we be ashamed at Hi coming?

The only way Endeavorers can fac the new year with confidence is wit strong trust in Jesus, to know that H is abiding in our hearts, to direct an lead us, that we might be ready fo Him, for He might come this year.

## Questions for Discussion

1. *What are some of the ways in which you will take Christ with you int the coming year?*
2. *How can the Christian Endeavo Pledge help you to live for Christ i 1964?*
3. *How can your society go into th future with Christ?*

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 23 God Became Man Philippians 2:5-1
T. Dec. 24 The First and the Last Revelation 1:4-
W. Dec. 25 God Is with Us Matthew 1:18-2
T. Dec. 26 Christ's Dominion Isaiah 9:6,
F. Dec. 27 He Is Coming Again Hebrews 9:24-2
S. Dec. 28 Our Blessed Hope Titus 2:11-1
Sun. Dec. 29—Topic: Into the Future wit Christ John 15:1-
(New Year's Sunday)

Comments by Glorya McDonald of LaMarque Texas, a student at Austin College and leader ship training departmental director of the Texa Christian Endeavor Union

# Topics

FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Topic 1 in a Unit: Bible Appreciation

## God's Library

II Peter 1:16-21

### reparation

Make your own order of service keeping several things in mind:

1. Mood is very important. The type music used, advance preparation, and he smoothness with which transition is ade from one part of the service to nother are an important part in the ood. Be sure that the song leader, ianist, and any others who have a part the service have a copy of the order f the service.

2. Remember the components of a ood service. There is music: the songs hould be selected appropriately; the ords of the hymns should relate to the heme; opening songs or hymns should e those with the more lively tunes, hile prayer hymns should be more deotional in tune and words. Next there s the reading of the Word of God: it hould be read to convey the message n it, not simply read to be reading it; assages should be selected that set orth the ideas to be discussed in the opic; a call to worship should be exctly this; for example, Psalm 119:10,11 would be a good passage for this topic.

Next there should be a time of prayer: his should encourage all to pray to God, even though one may lead in prayer; his prayer should be one that could be prayed by all in the group even though hey do not vocalize it.

The topic discussion should present he ideas relative to the theme; the importance of theme, the teaching of the Bible concerning it, and its meaning in our lives should all be a part of the topic discussion.

Even though we may not always appreciate them, announcements are very necessary: it is when and how they are made that makes the difference; they should be made at times that they are not just "thrown in;" they can build fellowship and enthusiasm; the announcements should be vital, to the point, adequate, and clear.

The closing of the meeting is very important: a summary of the discussion should be made showing the importance of what has been discussed in the daily lives of each member; the meeting should close in a spirit of optimism and leave the attitude of the greatness of our fellowship together in Christ; the benediction is to commend the group to God and to His service.

### Introduction

Our next three topics are concerned with subjects which are related to the Bible and its importance in our lives as Christians.

In order to stimulate a discussion we are going to present a dialogue between two high school boys. The place is in Jim's room in his home. The time is about 10 p.m.

The two boys enter the room. There are some school books on Jim's desk. Among them is a Bible and some books about the Bible. As the boys enter Paul speaks.

### Dialogue

**Paul:** How are you coming for the exam in biology tomorrow? Man, I get seared when I think of all the things that old Johnson could throw at us on that examination.

**Jim:** Okay, I guess. I have spent several hours reviewing this afternoon and evening. If I am lucky enough to get the right questions I'll get through.

**Paul:** (Sees the Bible on the desk) What's this—trying to become a saint or something?

**Jim:** (Laughs) No, but I do find a lot of help from the Bible and the church that helps me to meet life and find some meaning in it.

**Paul:** It always seemed so hard for me to understand. It was written in a different world than we live in and its wording is different than I am used to.

**Jim:** Yeah, in one sense it was written in a different world, but our world is dependent on that world. Our Western civilization has roots in Roman Law, Greek philosophy, and Christian ethics. We cannot really know what holds our civilization together without knowing something about the Bible.

**Paul:** That might be true but it seems so hard to study. I remember some stories I heard in Sunday school but it seems like a collection of unrelated statements and stories.

**Jim:** This may be because you do not understand the purpose of the Bible. It is not simply a collection of rules for life. It is a record of God's revelation of Himself in history.

**Paul:** You mean that you think that the Bible is history?

**Jim:** I certainly do — it is really interpreted history. In the Bible we read of "God's mighty acts," and the interpretation or meaning of the act. For example—God sent the plagues upon Pharaoh. But the plague alone was not sufficient.

The Lord used Moses and Aaron to tell the meaning of the plagues.

**Paul:** But some historians either reject or ignore the Bible as history, do they not?

**Jim:** This is true, but they do so because they reject all supernaturalism. This is no less faith than to believe that God could and did reveal Himself. I choose to accept revelation because it makes more sense out of the universe.

**Paul:** You begin with faith, then? Isn't this pretty hard to do? In our world we want to know and to prove.

**Jim:** This may be hard and seem irrational. But it is impossible to have any knowledge without some faith. Our faith is not purely our own feelings since God has revealed Himself in history. The Bible is our means of knowing that revelation. In this sense it is God's Word to us. This is the way we come to know what God is like; how man relates Himself to God; and what God expects of us.

**Paul:** But there are so many books in the Bible and they are all written differently. Isn't it confusing to know what the Bible does teach when you find confusing statements?

**Jim:** You know Paul, I can understand how you feel. One of the things that has helped me most was that I had to prepare a Christian Endeavor discussion on this theme for a meeting in the future. We have had some "crummy" meetings lately and I decided I was going to put a little more into this meeting so I looked up some of the books and materials suggested in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD. I have decided that the reason it is confusing is that we haven't studied it enough to appreciate it. Too often we depend on our minister, our Sunday school teacher, or someone else to study the Bible for us. We can really only understand it as we study it ourselves.

**Paul:** But where do you begin? It seems like a circle—if you have to study to understand—and yet you have to understand to study?

**Jim:** It helps to see the overall plan of the Bible; Its unity is seen in its purpose. That purpose is to help us to know of God's love for man and His purpose and plan to redeem man.

**Paul:** You mean that God loves us even when we are not doing the things we should?

**Jim:** Yes, I mean that. This love moves us to know more about this God and His will for our lives. God wants man not only to live but to live abundantly. Our desire to know more about God's love is a good beginning point for Bible study.

**Paul:** If the message of the various books of the Bible is one message, why are there so many different styles and kinds of writing?

**Jim:** It is true that there are many kinds of literature in the Bible. There is prose, poetry, drama, allegory, and apocalyptic sections. Couldn't it be that God was striving to appeal to the whole personality — the intellect, the emotions, and man's moral sense?

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**Paul:** You mentioned poetry—Is there poetry in the Bible?

**Jim:** Yes, there is poetry in the Bible. In fact, there are a number of poems in the Bible besides the three whole books that are commonly known as poetic. The three books are Job, Psalms, and Proverbs.

**Paul:** I remember reading some of the Psalms. They did not sound like poetry to me.

**Jim:** They do not sound like poetry because the plan and style of Hebrew poetry is different than it is in English. Hebrew poetry is parallel in thought rather than in the ryhming of the last word in each line. In parallelism, one line makes a statement and the second line may repeat it in different words, or state its opposite. This depends on the kind of parallelism.

**Paul:** Oh, I see. Maybe you can tell me something else. In the Bible, there are books called prophetic books. Many people use these as though they told all about the end of the world, and about the future. How can I understand what they mean?

**Jim:** You know I found a book that explained this better than anything that I have ever read. It explained that the prophets lived in different times and different backgrounds. Prediction was one of their functions. But also they had a message for their own day. They were advisors to kings. It was the prophets who told the kings of God's will. They preached to the people in the market place, in the temple courtyard, and wherever they could get a hearing. Even though they had different backgrounds, they spoke the same message. (Looks at a paper on the desk) Here is what this source said was a message common to all the prophets:

1. God had entered into covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai.
2. Israel had broken covenant with God by turning to idolatry and all sorts of immorality and wickedness.
3. Because Israel had broken covenant she must bear the consequences of covenant breaking. The author cites Leviticus 26:14-39.
4. A faithful remnant would be preserved.
5. Out of the remnant there would come the restoration of Israel. This in most prophets meant the coming of the Messiah.

**Paul:** You make me feel sort of dumb about all this. How did you come to dig into this?

**Jim:** As I said before, I had to lead a topic and I found the preparation a lot of fun once I got into it. I had to pass up some other things I wanted to do. But I am glad that I did. It made me see the meaning of life more clearly and my Christian responsibilities more clearly.

**Paul:** Aren't there some people who do not accept the Old Testament as being for us today?

**Jim:** This may be true, I do not know. Yet from the reading that I have done it seems that the Old Testament must be understood as background for the New. The Old Testament provides examples of faith, obedience, and disobedience. It also shows how God revealed Himself to the prophets at various times and in various manners. It presents God's faithfulness to His word which He revealed. But God has most completely and accurately revealed Himself to us through Christ.

**Paul:** But how can we know what He said or did?

**Jim:** This is where the New Testament comes in. The first four books known as the Gospels tells of the ministry of Christ in the flesh. Each writer gave us a little different view of Jesus but they agree upon the basic facts of the Gospel.

**Paul:** I remember reading some out of John, and Luke when I was in Sunday school. But what about the rest of the New Testament; how does it fit in?

**Jim:** The book of Acts comes next in the Bible. It tells about the beginning of the Church and its expansion in the Roman World. The next books are the Epistles, most of which were written by Paul. They were written in order to guide the Church. The apostles' teaching was accepted as normative in the early church. In Acts 2:42 this is made clear. Let me read it (He opens the Bible and reads Acts 2:42.) Let me see. I had written some other passages on a sheet of paper. (He looks for it in some papers.) Oh yes, here it is. There is a passage in Ephesians. (He takes the Bible and opens it. Then he reads Ephesians 2:9-3:6.)

**Paul:** You say a number of letters — How did they get together?

**Jim:** I don't know all about how they did. But according to some of the authorities I read, it stated that they were circulated separately among the church. But as time went on they were collected and placed in one volume.

**Paul:** What are these letters all about?

**Jim:** There is a common message running through them; it includes several things. Let me see, I had written down something about that. (Looks through papers.) Oh yes, here it is—The Message of the Epistles:

1. The Revelation of God's will and purpose in Christ.
2. The Redemption in Christ and the nature of the redeemed life.
3. The fellowship of believers—the nature and purpose of the church.
4. The Christian hope.

**Paul:** It sounds to me like you have spent a lot of time on this. Where do you find the time to do it?

**Jim:** Well, I did spend a lot of time. And believe me you don't find the time—you almost have to make time for it. Some other things have to go—really less important things. Paul, I found out that this New Testament is a guide for life. It tells us some crucial things in life. For example, listen to this. (He opens the Bible to Galatians 5 and reads verses 16-23.) Another passage which really helped me understand was Ephesians 5:1-10.

**Paul:** That does sound interesting. There is so much of the Bible that sounded to me like it was for people of ancient times but not for us.

**Jim:** That's true. This is so because the background or stage of God's revelation is in history. But those things are only the minutia not the important things. I think you can see that the things said in the two passages that I read are as true today as they ever were. I think that the Bible gives us a view of man that we can not find any where else.

**Paul:** What do you mean?

**Jim:** Well it seems like in our time we want to say that man is either all good or all bad. That he will create his own utopia or that the human race has "gone to pot." But the Bible helps us to be realistic about man. It sees him as a sinner on the one hand. But it does not despair over him. But man's hope is based on God's action, not man's. One of the writers pointed out Titus 3:5-7 as showing this. Let me read it to you.

**Paul:** That does sound hopeful, but I just can't quite understand what it all means.

**Jim:** You know Paul, through this I have begun to see the importance of the church today. We not only need a book, but we need help to use and understand that book.

**Paul:** That sounds logical. But how do you know who can help you as there are so many differences of opinion.

**Jim:** There are some differences; this seems to be quite natural. But you know, I have found a lot more common ground than I expected. Wh first started on this I was as confused as any could be. So the first thing I did was to g pastor Jones. I thought perhaps he would me all the information that I needed. He sure swell. He listened to me for quite aw Then he gave me a little information so th could get started. You know, I think he pretty tricky in some ways because he told of some books where I could dig this out myself. I guess I am lucky that I am in church that has a library.

**Paul:** Your church has a library?

**Jim:** It hasn't always. They used to th we couldn't afford it. We couldn't afford a thing. But lately something has happened; church seems to have taken on some new life. seems now like our parents and the wh church are beginning to believe that their wh lives belong to Christ.

**Paul:** I don't know what you mean. Don't th work at other jobs than just go to church all t time—pray or read their Bible?

**Jim:** I guess this does sound odd. They do wo at other jobs. But they have a new attitude their work. They believe that they should sho forth Christian attitudes in their relationship others. They do not always do it, but they ke trying and do a lot better job than if th didn't try. And too, they believe that at lea 10% of what they earn should go to the churc You see this is the reason that we can now hav the equipment we need for study and Christia growth. And it's not only equipment; it used be that the Christian Endeavor group kind had to go it on its own, but lately Merle an Betty and Stan and Pat—they are some of ou counselors—have taken a real interest. The listen to us and seem so understanding. The give us a lot of help, mostly by just askin questions about what we have done in plannin different things.

**Paul:** You seem real enthused about it; I neve knew anyone got enthused over religion excep to argue about it.

**Jim:** I didn't either until our church got co cerned. And getting back to the Bible, I thin the reason they are concerned is that at lea some of the members of our church read th Bible and began to take it seriously. And yo know I believe that there is hope both now an eternally.

**Paul:** (Looks at watch.) Man I have got to g my folks will wonder where I am! See yo again sometime. (Paul leaves.)

**Jim:** (Looks at his desk.) Boy! Who'd though that giving a few hours to really prepare Christian Endeavor topic about the Bible woul do this to me? It is a wonderful Book; It helping me to begin to see the abundance life in Christ. (Gets down on his knees an prays.) Dear God, thank you for opening m eyes. Thank you for Your Book—It is a Boo that leads to life. Thank you for pastor Jone for all the people of our church who put u with us kids. Help us not to fail Thee, or Jesu who loved us so much. Amen.

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Nov. 25 The Bible Is True Isaiah 40:1-
T. Nov. 26 The Bible Is Eternal Matthew 24:32-3
W. Nov. 27 The Bible Is Food Deuteronomy 8:1-
T. Nov. 28 The Bible Is Milk I Peter 2:1-1
F. Nov. 29 The Bible Is Inspired II Timothy
S. Nov. 30 The Bible Is Fulfilled Acts 1:15-2
**Sun. Dec. 1—Topic: God's Library II Peter 1:16-2**

Comments by Dr. Lawrence M. Bixler, professo of Bible and Christian Education at Northwe Christian College, Eugene, Oregon

Topic 2 in a Unit: Bible Appreciation

# The Eternal Book

I Peter 1:22-25

## Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: I Peter 1:22-25
Opening Hymn: *Faith of Our Fathers*
Invocation
Hymns: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness; The Church's One Foundation*
Announcements and Offering
Special Music: *The Love of God* (solo)
Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-2:4
Leader's Introduction of Topic
Topic Presentation
Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*
Responsive Reading
Closing Prayer

## To the Leader

The material presented in developing this topic, being largely unfamiliar to your members, does not lend itself readily to extended group discussion; the question likely to be raised could quite likely remain unanswered. This is an excellent time to invite your minister to be in your meeting, since he is the person most likely to be well-informed concerning the historical background of this subject.

Because of its factual nature, the material should be presented by your best speakers, either as a series of talks, or as a panel. Make certain they have mastered the pronunciation of all the unfamiliar names and terms which will be used.

## Leader's Introduction

The emergence and transmittal of the Bible during the rise and fall of empires and cultures is a remarkable reminder of God's love for His Creation. It is our purpose in this meeting to attempt to gain a more complete knowledge and a better understanding of the ways in which the books which make up our Bible have come to us. Of all the writings of antiquity, why is it that these sixty-six have emerged as a unique revelation, while entire civilizations which flourished at the times of their writing have all turned to dust, many of them completely forgotten except for references to them in the Bible?

As we know, the Bible had its beginning with the writing of the five books of the Law by Moses. As the writer of Hebrews says, "God . . . at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets." To understand the process by which these expressions of God's Will were collected, we must begin our study with a discussion of the Old Testament canon.

## The Old Testament Canon

The Greek word *canon* came from a Hebrew or Phoenician word meaning a stalk or reed. The word came to mean a straight rod, and eventually meant anything straight: a rule, standard, model, measure, criterion, norm. Finally it came to mean a rule of faith, and was used to distinguish sacred Scriptures as authoritative writings. A canonical book is one entitled to a place in the Bible; an uncanonical book is one not entitled to a place in the Bible. The Greek word came into use in the fourth century, but the idea was an ancient one.

The Hebrews always preserved their songs, narratives, laws, annals, and prophecies. The Ten Commandments were placed in the Ark of the Covenant, and the Book of the Law was placed beside the Ark. Gradually three parts which make up our Old Testament came into being.

In 621 B. C., when "the book of the law" was found in the temple, King Josiah formally proclaimed it to be authoritative in the lives of his people. The Law consists of the five books of Moses, the Pentateuch, arranged in the same order as in the English Bible. The books of the Pentateuch were certainly accepted as regulatory by the time of Nehemiah, 432 B. C., and were retained by the Samaritans after their withdrawal from Judaism. Some authorities suggest 400 B. C. as an appropriate date for the canonization or complete acceptance of the Law.

The next division of the Old Testament to achieve canonization was the Prophets, which the Hebrew order divides into the Former and the Latter. The Former consist of Joshua, Judges, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings. These books came to be accepted during the Exile. The Latter consist of the Major books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel), and the Twelve, or the Minor, which follow directly after Ezekiel, and have the same order as in the English Bible. The Major Prophets are so called because their books are longer than those of the Minor. The Minor Prophets were counted as one book.

The prophetic canon was fixed during the Exile, by about 200 B. C. In about 180 B. C., the writings of Ben Sira reveal a recognition of "the Law and the Prophets," and in 132 B. C. his grandson repeatedly refers to these two divisions.

The third division, called Writings, or Hagiographa, won acceptance more slowly, because of the independent character and varied contents of the books. By 132 B. C. a loose grouping existed. Ben Sira's grandson refers to "The Law and the Prophets and the rest of the books." The division was complete by the beginning of the Christian era, but some books were long disputed.

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote about A. D. 100, "We have but twenty-two books, containing the history of all time, books that are justly believed in." His list did not count the double books or the Twelve separately. He further comments: "From the days of Artaxerxes to our own times every event has indeed been recorded; but these recent records have not been deemed worthy of equal credit with those which preceded them on account of the failure of the exact succession of the prophets. There is practical proof of the spirit in which we treat our Scriptures; for although so great an interval of time has now passed, not a soul has ventured either to add to or to remove or to alter a syllable, and it is the instinct of every Jew, from the day of his birth to consider these Scriptures as the teaching of God, and to abide by them and, if need be, cheerfully to lay down his life in their behalf."

At the Council of Jamnia in A. D. 90, the complete Old Testament, consisting of thirty-nine books, was given formal recognition. Many authorities feel that this formal decision merely confirmed what had long been a general consent.

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## The Apocrypha

The Palestinian Jews believed that prophecy ended in the time of Ezra. Because of this they did not accept as canonical many books written in the last centuries B. C. The Alexandrian Jews accepted many books which were translated into Greek, but set up no special canon. The first complete translation of the Hebrew Scriptures is a Greek version, the Septuagint, began by a group of seventy translators under Ptolemy Philadelphus, and finally completed by 150 B. C. This included the Hebrew canonical books and a number of others: Judith, Tobit, The Wisdom of Solomon, The Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), I Esdras, I, II, III, and IV Maccabees, Prayer of Manasseh, an expanded form of Esther, and the additions to Daniel—Susanna, Song of the Three Children, and Bel and the Dragon.

In the Christian era, Jerome designated these books in the Septuagint which were not in the Hebrew canon as "Apocrypha," secret or hidden books. Augustine and the Roman Church accepted them and they appeared in the Vulgate. At the time of the Reformation, Protestants retained the Palestinian canon, but kept the arrangement of books in the Septuagint and the Roman Catholic Vulgate, which do not divide the Prophets from the Writings. Luther, in his German Bible in 1534, placed the Apocrypha at the end of the Old Testament, labeled as inferior but "good and useful for reading." The first English Bibles followed this procedure, but by 1599 the Puritans began to omit the Apocrypha from some printings of the Geneva Bible, and in 1629 copies of King James began to appear without them. Since 1827 the British and American Bible Societies have not printed them. While their claim to inspiration has not been accepted, they are useful in giving the Jewish religious background of New Testament times.

## The New Testament Canon

It was reasonable that the new Christian religion should believe in a written rule of faith. Christ consistently appealed to the evidence of the Old Testament to support His preaching, and in the instruction of His disciples. The apostles followed this example, and in the generation which followed them, writings which were known to have apostolic authority were gradually collected in the second half of the Church's canon, and finally were called the New Testament. The letters of Paul began to be collected about A. D. 90, for their religious usefulness. Then the collection of the four Gospels began, thus giving the nucleus of our New Testament. The collection of authoritative books into a canon was a part of the effort to combat various heresies which developed during the early centuries of Chrsitianity, particularly that of Marcion. Marcion rejected the Old Testament, and advocated a Christian Scripture consisting of a mutilated Gospel of Luke and ten letters of Paul. The churches, coming more and more under the leadership of Rome, made use of the collections of the Gospels and the Pauline letters, joining them by the book of Acts and the group of minor letters of apostles. Several apocalypses were circulated, including the Revelations of John and of Peter, and the Shepherd of Hermas. These books came to be read in churches and were resorted to as authorities in doctrinal controversies.

About twenty-two books were accepted in the west. Christian leaders of Egypt were not satisfied with so small a New Testament. Clement of Alexandria around the end of the second century added Hebrews to the Pauline letters, and the letters of Barnabas and of Clement of Rome to the general letters. Origen of Alexandria and Caesarea, in the first half of the third century, had twenty-nine books: our twenty-seven and Barnabas and the Shepherd. In general the east accepted Hebrews, while the west did not. Jerome, at the end of the fourth century, declared that the custom of the Latins did not receive it, but he included it in the Vulgate version. The east hesitated long about accepting the Revelation of John. These hesitations and testing of books indicated the care and caution which the early Church exercised in deciding which of the books in circulation represented a divine revelation entitling them to a place in the Bible.

In his Easter letter of A. D. 367, Athanasius spoke out in favor of the twenty-seven books which we know today. At the synods of Hippo Regius in 393, and Carthage in 397, our list of twenty-seven books was accepted. The history of the formation of the collection shows the stages by which the books rightly belonging to the canon were recognized and brought together. The canon was not the result of a series of contests; the Church did not create the canon, but came to recognize and acknowledge the inspiration of the canonical documents.

## Leader's Conclusion

We have reviewed briefly the process by which sixty-six books, recorded by many individuals over a period of c tries, came to be recognized as a u fied revelation of God to mankind. G who caused this Book to be, has us it over the centuries to teach man H Will. Examples could be multiplied definitely of lives and even entire n tions changed and cleansed by the in pact of the Bible. One such incident found in the history of Anglo-Sax England.

At the middle of the seventh ce tury there was nothing to suggest a co ing greatness in learning and literatu in England. The country was divide and weakened by continuous warfar heathenism prevailed among the stron est leaders. Christianity had only a sma hold in one section of the island. B within the course of a single centu a Christian culture arose in Englan which influenced the course of learnin in western Europe. An English monas tery had produced the greatest historica work of the early middle ages, and poet had arisen whose songs gave permanen form to heroic traditions. At the hear of this achievement was the influence o the Bible as it was taught to the peopl and became a part of their lives.

A renewal of this influence is seen i the same country many centuries later John Richard Green says, "No greate moral change ever passed over a natio than passed over England during th years which parted the middle of th reign of Elizabeth from the meeting o the Long Parliament. England becam the people of a book, and that book wa the Bible. It was as yet the one Englis book which was familiar to every Englishman: it was read at churche and read at home, and everywhere it words, as they fell on ears which custom had not deadened to their force and beauty, kindled a startling enthusiasm.

It is well to remember that a part o the cost of this rekindling was William Tyndale's martyrdom in the cause o bringing the Bible to the people.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 2 A Devouring Flame
Jeremiah 5:1-1
T. Dec. 3 A Life-Giving Force
Ezekiel 37:1-1
W. Dec. 4 A Saving Power Romans 1:14-1
T. Dec. 5 A Weapon of the Spirit
Ephesians 6:17-2
F. Dec. 6 An Instrument of God
Hebrews 4:1-1
S. Dec. 7 A Cleansing Power
Psalm 119:1-1
**Sun. Dec. 8—Topic: The Eternal Book**
**I Peter 1:22-2**
**(Universal Bible Sunday)**

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadia Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavo Union

Topic 3 in a Unit: Bible Appreciation

# The Book to Believe

Matthew 5:17-20

## To the Leader

Oral reviews of sections of one or more books related to this topic would be interesting. A report on a recent archaeological expedition to the Bible lands would make the subject "come alive" for your members. Ask your minister to recommend several books from your church library which would be appropriate, or assign one or more of these: Hugh J. Schonfield, *The Bible Was Right;* Keller, *The Bible as History;* A. Powell Davies, *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls.* Have your reviewers be prepared to answer questions which the group may raise about the reports.

Prepare copies of the concluding litany for the ushers to give to members as they arrive. If the hymn *O Word of God Incarnate,* used in the litany, is not familiar enough for your group to sing it, perhaps it could be sung by a quartet of young people from your church choir.

## Introduction of Topic

It is not uncommon today to observe people who have little serious regard for the authority of the Bible in their lives. Many people can "take it or leave it alone," as far as allowing the teachings contained in the Bible to regulate their conduct is concerned. This is not a new situation: some people followed Jesus thinking He represented an escape for them from the obligations of the Mosaic Law. Jesus' attitude toward the Old Testament Scriptures is revealed in tonight's Scripture reading: far from doing away with the Law, He set goals for men's lives which went far beyond what was required by the Law. Jesus always recognized the authority of the Old Testament Scriptures, as did the writers of the books of the New Testament. These writers regarded their own writings as being inspired by God, and these books were very quickly collected and used for regulating the activities of the early Church and its members. Our purpose tonight is to study some of the reasons why the Bible is worthy of recognition as "given by inspiration of God . . . profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

## The Unity of the Scriptures

Any other explanation than that of Divine Inspiration and preservation makes it difficult to understand how such a book as the Bible has come to us out of the obscurity of the past. The Bible was recorded by more than thirty men over a period of perhaps sixteen centuries. These writers lived under the influence of various cultures: Egyptian, Babylonian, Chaldean. Yet we do not find the Bible reflecting the scientific absurdities which these cultures used to explain the world. For instance, we do not find Moses writing of the hatching of the earth from a winged egg, which was a legend he must have been familiar with, since he was reared in the household of Pharoah, and was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." Instead, we find the magnificently simple, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," an eternal truth which all the Bible's detractors of three thousand years have tried in vain to topple.

The Chaldeans at one stage of their culture believed that the earth was a live, sleeping monster that had covered himself with feathers and scales in the form of vegetables and rocks. Surely Isaiah does not reflect this idea when he speaks of God as "He that sitteth upon the *circle* of the earth." How many centuries passed before this commonplace characteristic of the creation became recognized by the scientists of earth!

We find the Bible singularly free of the errors and fallacies common to the age of its production. Surely this argues for a Divine Wisdom in its writing. And instead of the hodge-podge of ancient folklore which some critics would make of the Bible, we find that it contains a unity of thought indicating that One Mind inspired the writing of it in its entirely. Thirty authors writing centuries apart, and unknown to each other, produced a Book untainted by the superstition and vice of the cultures surrounding its authors, and unified in its attitude of praise to God and condemnation of sin, beginning with chaos and ending with perfection, beginning with the introduction of sin and ending with its destruction. Surely such a book could not have come about by accident or by human design. The Hand of God is apparent in it.

## The Preservation of the Bible

At one time it was in vogue in certain circles to assert that the Bible had changed so in the course of centuries, through mistranslation, errors in copying, and deliberate distortions, that its original meaning, if any, had been lost. Since no original manuscripts still existed, it was impossible to confirm or refute this charge. In 1903, when the Revised Version of the Bible was published, B. F. Westcott wrote, "It cannot be repeated too often that the text of the New Testament surpasses all other Greek texts in the antiquity, variety and fulness of the evidence by which it is attested."

After all the research and manuscript study of the first half of the twentieth century, when the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was issued in 1946, its introduction was able to assert: "It will be obvious to the careful reader that still in 1946, as in 1881 and 1901, no doctrine of the Christian faith has been affected by the revision, for the simple reason that, out of the thousands of variant readings in the manuscripts, none has turned up thus far that required a revision of the Christian doctrine."

Two events have made great contributions to the study of the Hebrew Old Testament in this century. One was the opening of the Geniza of the Old Cairo

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## Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.
Opening Hymn: *My Faith Looks up to Thee*
Invocation
Hymns: *Blessed Assurance; I Love to Tell the Story; Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*
Announcements
Offering
Hymn: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20
Special Music: *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (solo)
Presentation of Topic
Litany of Adoration
Benediction

*(Continued from Previous Page)*

Synagogue in the 1890's. A geniza was a room adjoining a synagogue and used for discarded copies of Scripture awaiting ceremonial burial. The Old Cairo Synagogue began in a former Christian church building in the ninth century, and when the synagogue was rebuilt in 1890, the thousand years' collection of discarded scrolls and books was sold to collectors and scholarly institutions. Eventually about 100,000 fragments of Old Testament and Apocryphal books were acquired for the Cambridge University Library, and probably an equal number are distributed among other libraries. The greatest value of these discoveries was in the light they have thrown on the development of the signs by which the vowels are indicated in later Hebrew writing.

The most spectacular discovery of the century was the discovery in 1947 of the "Dead Sea Scrolls" by a group of Arab shepherds. A goatherder discovered a cave in the rocky desert south of Jericho toward the Dead Sea. Inside were a number of clay jars which contained ancient leather and papyrus scrolls, wrapped in linen. These were smuggled into Bethlehem, and a number of them were sold on the black market. As they were seen and recognized by scholars, an intensive investigation was begun to locate all the scrolls. This was complicated by the Arab-Israeli war which broke out at this time. After much negotiation and great difficulty, several of these scrolls were taken to the United States. They include a complete scroll of Isaiah, a commentary on Habakkuk, and a history of a religious group, whose library the scrolls originally composed. Hebrew University owns six scrolls and small fragments of several Old Testament books.

The scrolls had been hidden in the caves during a time of crisis or catastrophe. The cloth in which the scrolls were wrapped has been subjected to the radio-carbon test, which resulted in a date of the middle of the first century A. D. Most scholars feel that the scrolls could not have been copied out later than A. D. 200. This means that the scrolls are nearly a thousand years older than any other Hebrew texts which have been discovered. Yet when the Isaiah scroll was examined, its similarity to the other texts is astounding to scholars. A verse-by-verse comparison reveals an almost word for word similarity.

## The Testimony of History

The writers of the Bible claimed to speak at the direction of God, and frequently issued in His Name prophecies of events to come. The list of fulfilled prophecies argues for the authority of the Bible. Each year at Easter we review the Old Testament prophecies which foretell the coming of Christ. Hundreds of other prophecies were fulfilled in exactly the manner predicted. When Jesus looked over Jerusalem and predicted that not one stone would be left upon another, who could believe that in only a few decades the rebellious Jews would provoke Rome into utterly destroying Jerusalem? Yet it came to pass, in one of the bloodiest and most tragic of wars.

The discoveries of "lost history," through archaeology, attest the accuracy of the Bible. For over a century now archaeologists have been digging up long fallen and literally forgotten civilizations all over the Middle East. One of the objections to the Bible, which caused it in some quarters to be called a collection of legends, myths, and folklore, was the fact that the Bible contained detailed accounts of the relationships of the Israelites with a number of ancient powers, kings, and cities, which could not be verified from any historical source, and many of which were completely unknown, outside the Biblical accounts. Because no references could be found in secular histories to the Hittites, the critics labeled them a mythical kingdom of warriors. Imagine the chagrin of learned scholars who had adopted this attitude in print when excavations in what is now modern Turkey revealed an entire civilization, highly advanced, which rivaled Egypt, and came near to conquering Rameses II. The first nonaggression pact in recorded history was signed between these two powers, and was sealed by an agreement to marry Rameses's daughter to a Hittite prince.

As more ancient sites have been uncovered, and more of the ancient inscriptions and records have been deciphered, hundreds of places, events, and people mentioned in the Bible and formerly relegated to the realm of the imaginary by overzealous critics have been recognized as founded in fact. Ur of the Chaldees, Babylon, the Kingdom of Mari, King Solomon's seaport and copper and iron mines, have all been uncovered and add their testimony to the accuracy of the historical accounts contained in the Bible.

## Leader's Conclusion

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and in the final analysis the proof of the authority of the Bible as "Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation," is their effect in the lives of those w accept them. Here the evidence is disputable. We have seen weaklings come strong, cowards become brave, selfish become self-sacrificing, wh touched by the message of the Go News, contained in the Bible. This curring miracle of old men becom new men in Christ is a thing whi astounds the world, and is the or hope of the world. "For as by one ma disobedience many were made sinne so by the obedience of one shall ma be made righteous."

## Litany of Adoration

**Leader:** Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.

**Group:** (to be sung)

O word of God incarnate,
O wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky;
We praise Thee for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

**Leader:** Heaven and earth shall pass away; b my Word shall not pass away.

**Group:**

The Church from her dear Master
Received the gift divine,
And still that light she lifteth
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the golden casket
Where gems of truth are stored:
It is the heaven-drawn picture
Of Christ, the living Word.

**Leader:** If a man love me, he will keep m words; and my Father will love him, and w will come unto him, and make our abode wit him.

**Group:**

It floateth like a banner
Before God's host unfurled;
It shineth like a beacon
Above the darkling world.
It is the chart and compass
That o'er life's surging sea,
'Mid mists and rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to Thee.

**Leader:** My Word that goeth forth out of M mouth shall not return unto me void.

**Group:**

O make Thy Church, dear Saviour,
A lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations
Thy true light, as of old.
O teach Thy wandering pilgrims
By this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see Thee face to face.

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 9 The Sacredness of the Bible
Revelation 22:17-2
T. Dec. 10 Gives Knowledge of Salvation
I John 5:1-1
W. Dec. 11 Study Enjoined John 5:39-4
T. Dec. 12 The Bible Instructs Isaiah 2:1-
F. Dec. 13 Ignorance Perilous
Matthew 22:23-3
S. Dec. 14 The Bible Is Light
Psalm 119:105,13
**Sun. Dec. 15—Topic: The Book to Believe**
Matthew 5:17-2

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadi Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavo Union

# The Spirits of Christmas

Matthew 1:18-25
(Christmas Sunday)

## oposed Program

-Prayer Service
rol Singspiration: (Start as soon as anyone comes. Hold the song period around the piano.)
elude: (Played when the time for the meeting has come and the group takes their seats.)
ll to worship: O come, let us worship and bow down, (Followed by Isaiah 9:6.)
vocation
ymn: *Jesus Shall Reign*
riod for prayer: (Suggest that each one express thanks for at least one thing.)
ymn: *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*
ripture: Matthew 1:18-25
ffertory
pecial: (music, or a reading or a story etc.)
esentation of the topic
losing Hymn: *Joy to the World*
enediction

## rogram Pointers

The leader should ask the pianist and e song leader to come early. They can ke charge of an informal carol sing as e members and friends arrive. Have it round the piano. As the time for the meetg arrives have the group take their places hile the music continues. Carols are rarely ng except at Christmas so make the best se of them. Perhaps a change might be sed in receiving the offering. Let each ne come forward and deposit his gift in box decorated in Christmas colors. Or use picture of the Christ child suggesting od's gift as well as that of each one.

## ips for the Leader

Begin to plan just as soon as you now you are to be the leader. Look ver the topic. Look up the Daily Readngs for the week preceding your topic. hey will relate to the topic you are vorking on. Then read the Scripture eference and material.

After you have gone over the mateial determine your objective. In this neeting you should be shooting for one r more of the following: 1. To look for the constructive and destructive elements in the observance of Christmas; 2. To determine the most important factors in the Christmas celebration; 3. To advance the real spirit of Christmas; 4. To identify and seek to correct some of the destructive elements in the Christmas period; 5. Or a special objective that fits your society. Be sure to have a clear objective in mind for your topic.

Next decide the type of meeting you will have. How will you present the topic? By talks, discussion, buzz sessions, panel, dramatization, object lessons etc. Select the people that are to help you and clear with them as early as possible. Make a list of the props you will need and collect them early. When the time is close check up on all who are taking part and be sure they are prepared and need no help. Look over the suggested order of service and make whatever changes are needed to fit your group and the plans you have for the meeting.

Arrange a pre-prayer meeting for all who are taking part in the program. Use a few minutes before the meeting is to begin. Enthusiasm on the part of the leader will be conveyed to others and make for a better meeting.

## Counsel for the Counselor

Every counselor has certain routine items that are regularly checked. Some of them are: Has the leader been selected? Does he know it? Is he preparing? Does he have enough material? Has he selected the type of meeting and the method of presentation for the topic? Has the equipment been collected? Have other participants been selected and asked to take part? Does this leader need more help because of lack of experience or the type of program?

A Special program like Christmas can be made a highly moving one. A little help from the counselor will often transform a drab meeting into a sparkling one.

## Leader's Introduction

(Relate in your own words adding your own thoughts and observations).

Spirits are abroad at Christmas. These various spirits motivate people and lead them to act. This topic will examine some of these spirits and their influence upon the action of people. It will also indicate which spirits should be fostered and which ought to be eliminated.

(Here the leader introduces the first speaker. This person may make a talk or represent himself as being the spirit under discussion. Objects symbolizing the particular spirit might be used, such as: a bell with tinsel for festivity, money for spending, a picture of a greedy person for greed, one of the infant Jesus for giving etc.)

THE SPIRIT OF FESTIVITY (Relate in your own words and add your own thoughts from experience and observation.)

The spirit of festivity is in the air at Christmas time. Music is heard in all the stores; shopping centers resound with the sound of singing. Gay decorations adorn the houses. The cities send out their workers and the streets are dressed in green branches and colorful figures. Santa Claus with the traditional red suit and long beard is found in the stores and on the streets. Lights of every description are strung on trees, buildings, lamp posts, and houses. They twinkle, blink, and shine to add to the spirit of festivity. Angels, reindeer, sheep, lambs, donkeys, in plastic, paper, metal, and wood are to be seen everywhere. To it all is added the sounds of jingling bells. The churches are decorated with green boughs and Christmas flowers. Carols resound from the stone walls of the churches. Why all this festivity? When it is pushed back to its beginning there is God. A God who sent His son into the world and seeks to save all men. The coming of Jesus was accompanied by the light of a star, and the singing of heavenly hosts. All heaven was joyous over the birth of Jesus.

THE SPIRIT OF SPENDING (Relate in your own words and add your own thoughts from observation and experience. Begin by reading, Luke 2:1-7.)

Buying and selling and profit making existed in the days of Jesus. From a business standpoint the busiest people in Bethlehem were likely the innkeepers. We know that the city was crowded because of the people that came to be taxed. The city was so full that every room was taken. Not a single space was for rent. Undoubtedly there were those who took advantage to sell their prod-

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ucts. There was a spirit of spending in the air. The visitors sought entertainment and bought gifts to take home with them. Today everyone gets caught with the spirit of spending at Christmas time. The stores feature displays of merchandise. Radio and television time has much advertising. Newspapers are increased in size to accommodate the ads. Gift lists are made out and bank accounts checked and rechecked. Christmas savings are collected and a buying spree begins. There are times when all of this leads to unwise buying. Word of mouth stories of bargains and proposed gifts excite others. Out they rush to get in the stream of buying. Sometimes the spirit of spending causes the loss of good judgment and there is spending beyond means and the resultant hardship of debts follow. It is important to keep calm and retain good common sense and control the spirit of spending.

THE SPIRIT OF SELFISHNESS (Read Matthew 1:1-8; 12-15. Relate in your own words and add your own thoughts from experience and observation.)

Herod the Great was ruler of Judea when Jesus was born. Herod was coming to the close of a long and checkered career. His reign had been filled with intrigue, hatred, murder, and misdemeanors of all kinds. Many of the evils had been brought about by the king. He sought with all manner of means to retain and extend his power. He is credited with ten wives. Herod plotted and brought about the death of various members of his family and others just to secure his position as king. Just when all seemed well the unexpected happens. A party of foreigners arrived asking for the King of the Jews. The visitors were obviously persons of high rank and they carried the title of Magi. They told of following a star that they expected would lead them to the king. Herod's spies soon brought him the story. His fear and selfishness was aroused at once. With the cunning of long experience he invited the Magi to visit him. Any traveler from a foreign country would be impressed by an audience with the king. Herod regarded the story of a king as a threat to his throne. He immediately instigated plans to protect his interests. He tried to find all that the Magi knew about the new king. Then he made arrangements for them to return and tell him about the new king. In his heart Herod planned to destroy any claiment to the throne. Today there are many spiritual descendents of Herod. People who are motivated by greed, selfishness, and fear. They fear that others will receive more valuable Christmas presents than they do. Someone else gets a desired position in the community, in business, or in the church. Selfishness issues in feelings of dissatisfaction. Many times quarrels and unhappiness follows. The spirit of selfishness and greed raises its ugly head even at Christmas time. There are those who forget their good business ethics. Some misleading advertising will appear. In some cases prices are raised instead of being lowered as reported. Some seek the highest possible profit regardless of fair practices. The spirit of greed is one to avoid.

THE SPIRIT OF WORSHIP (Relate in your own words adding your own thoughts from experience and observation. Read Luke 2:8-20 in preparation.)

When Jesus was born there were shepherds looking after their flocks on the hillsides near Bethlehem. It is possible that the sheep were destined for sacrifice at the temple. These shepherds had spent many nights on the slopes watching the sheep. No one knows if this night began any different from hundreds of others. But sometime in the night the darkness disappeared. The splendor of the Lord shown around them. An angel was before them. He was *real.* He spoke to them. The declaration was reinforced by angelic hosts in the heavens. They sang a moving melody of peace on earth and praise to God. The shepherds were so jubilant that they left at once to find and see the Christ child. They found the baby just as described. It was the fulfillment of the heavenly message. The shepherds told everyone what had happened. They went back to their work with joy in their hearts. All of this issued in the worship of God. The shepherds glorified and worshiped Him. The spirit of worship is noticable at Christmas season.

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING (Relate in your own words adding your own thoughts from experience and observation. Read Matthew 1:9-11 in preparation.)

From the far distance came the wise men. They followed the new star that led them many, many miles. Arriving in Judea they sought the promised king. In Bethlehem they visited the baby Jesus and saw in Him the answer to their search. The faith and confidence of the Wise Men is shown by their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the young child. These gifts were voluntary and given because the Magi wanted the child Jesus to have them. They were given out of overflowing hearts; love and adoration motivated the giving. They saw Jesus as God's gift to man. So they too, gave.

In keeping with giving of gifts Christ and in harmony with God's g ing so do we. Not all our gifts are selfless. Some of ours are mere changes. Some gifts are made for bu ness reasons, some of necessity, to sec favor, or some other reason. The perf gift is made out of love. The giver pects nothing in return but is reward by the happiness of the recipient the gift. It is more blessed to give th to receive.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD (Relate in your ov words adding your own thoughts fr experience and observation. Read Lu 1:26-38 in preparation).

In an obscure village in northe Palestine lived an unknown young wo an by the name of Mary. The villa had so mean a reputation that the co mon expression was, "Can anythi good come out of Nazareth." Yet t village had a visit from one of Go messengers named Gabriel. He appear to Mary. She was engaged to a m called Joseph, a descendent of Ki David. Gabriel told Mary that she w a chosen one of God. Of course Ma was filled with fear at the appearan and voice of the angel. After reassuri her Gabriel told her that she was to b come the mother of a son and that s should name him Jesus. Her son w to be great and known as the Son the most high. He would be given t throne of his forefather David. His r would never end. The angel said th the Holy Spirit would come upon h and the child would be called holy the Son of God. Mary indicated h willingness to do God's will. God p sessed her body and soul. The spirit God was present in this first Christm Such a spirit is needed in today's ce bration of the birth of Jesus. Certai three factors are involved. 1. The fluence of the spirit of God in peo of today. 2. Recognition of God's ow ership. 3. Willingness to do God's w Mary demonstrated all of these.

## Questions for Discussion

**1. What other spirits are abroad at Christmas time that are not named in this topic?**

**2. Which is the most destructive spirit in the observance of Christmas?**

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 16 Christ's Coming Foretold Isaiah 9:
T. Dec. 17 Christ the Word Romans 10:1
W. Dec. 18 The Annunciation Luke 1:26
T. Dec. 19 The Birth of Christ Luke 2:
F. Dec. 20 The Shepherds Find Jesus Luke 2:8
S. Dec. 21 Visit of the Wise Men Matthew 2:1
**Sun. Dec. 22—Topic: The Spirits of Christm** Matthew 1:18
**(Christmas Sunday)**

**Comments by Elwood Dunn, general secreta of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union a extension representative of the Internatio Society of Christian Endeavor**

# How Do You Look?

Acts 7:49-60
(New Year's Sunday)

## ggested Program

-Prayer Service
lude
ll to Worship: Proverbs 29:18
mn: *He Keeps Me Singing*
vocation
mn: *I Shall See The King*
ripture: Acts 7:49-60
nouncements
fering
ecial Number
pic Presentation
ymn: *Let the Beauty of Jesus*
nediction

## oints for Publicity

1. Plan the publicity methods early.
2. Time your publicity so that the oup can work it into their schedule; ot so far ahead to make it lose its ap-eal.
3. Make the materials as novel and ttractive as possible.
4. Use color, pictures, drawings, artoon characters, etc. on the materials.
5. Make the date, time, and place lear.

For this topic make a poster with felt narkers showing a pair of spectacles f enormous size. Or use a drawing or photograph of a pair of binoculars r a microscope in the center of the oster. Use the topic title *How Do You Look?* as the caption for the poster.

If you are having a group where they lo not all know each other bring some elt markers and some colored paper nd have each put his or her name on he paper. Pin them on for identifica-ion.

To further publicize the meeting ave a couple of the young people ap-ear the week before with binoculars nd microscopes. Discuss going to the Christian Endeavor meeting to find out ow to look.

## For the Leader

Read all the material in this topic. Go over the Daily Readings. Plan the way you want the topic presented. Select the people you want to help with the topic. Arrange for the props that will be needed. Do it ahead of time. Have a pre-prayer service for the ones helping with the program. Consult with your counselor about your plans. Be enthusiastic about the topic and your ideas. Follow up on the ones helping you.

## For the Meeting Room

Find a large picture of the human eye that seems to follow in all directions and mount it on cardboard. Then hang it in the meeting room to suggest looking in all directions. It might even be the symbol of the watchful concern of God over us. If a picture cannot be found perhaps someone in the group can sketch it on paper or poster board.

## Topic Introduction

(Let the leader say in his own words)

The emphasis of our topic is on the way we may look. We will consider looking in four different directions. The speakers will present the importance of looking in these directions.

## The Backward Look

(First speaker tells in his own words. He appears with a microscope and peers into it. Then pulls a slide or bit of paper from under the glass and blows dust off of it.)

Looking backward can sure be dusty work. Sometimes you have to dig around and uncover the important things that happened. This topic material is being written just as Gordon Cooper completed his history making journeys around the world. By the time this is presented many more successful things could have happened. A real struggle is going on in the area of desegregation. More will have happened by December. In this past year many things have been achieved in many fields and more is to come. Progress has been registered. Some problems still remain. Within our own church many fine things have been accomplished. Some of them are: (List some local things. Ask the Minister if you need help). Our society has made some advances in these past twelve months: (List some achievements). We have had some challenging meetings, some fine trips, and a lot of fun. Some of the things we had hoped to do are still to be done. These represent a challenge for a new year.

It's good to take a look back now and then. The Apostle Paul looked back over his life and evaluated it. He has it in his second letter to Timothy. "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" II Timothy 4:7. He looks back and sees those things that have been good. His life displayed loyalty to Christ and to His cause. Many things happened that might have deterred him. He writes of the dangers he had experienced. There are descriptions of having been beaten with rods. He was often in prison. He was bitterly opposed almost everywhere he went to preach. When he was arrested it was without charge. The ruler kept him in prison to satisfy a whim. He was regarded as a pawn in the game of power politics. In all of this he kept the faith. When he was in prison he had a chance to defend his position before King Agrippa. Nowhere in his defense does he ask to be released. He turns the defense into an impassioned appeal to convert Agrippa to Christ. In the appeal he relates his conversion and then declares, "Whereupon, O King Agrippa I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" Acts 26:19. Here Paul looks back and proclaims his loyalty to the cause of Christ. If each society and each person could have been this loyal and bold this past year, we could look back with a sense of real achievement in the name of Christ. It is good to look back and recognize the achievements of the past and then let the past give us guidance for the future. We dare not live in the past but the past can help us live in the now and in the future yet to be.

## The Present Look

(Second speaker tells in his own words. He appears with a very large pair of spectacles cut from cardboard. Or he may wear a pair of trick eyeglasses with bulgy eyeballs. He uses these to look in all directions, turning around two or three times. Thus he gives the illusion of looking around.)

Let us take a look around us. There are things that are going on right now. We have some activity in progress in our own society. (List the events and the programs in progress.) There are always some things that should be done and are not getting done. (Some could be named.) Someone has said, yesterday is gone, tomorrow never comes, on the great clock of time there is but one word—NOW. There is truth here. *Now* is important. What is being done right now? Being engaged in a project right now is important. Many dream of the past glories and have fantasies of

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the future and the *now* disappears in daydreaming. Unless something is started now and kept after it never gets done. There are some things that must be done right now or never get done at all. Split second timing is often important. For example a variation of a fraction of a second in starting an astronaut's return to the earth would make a sizable difference in the location of "splash down".

Jesus was very much aware of what was going on around Him. Many of the parables come right out of current life. An expression like, "seeing the multitudes" and His observation in the temple indicates that He was looking around Him. Some of the things He did had *now* marked right on them. Healing of the blind, raising of Lazarus, calling of the apostles, and going deliberately to Jerusalem are but a few of the examples. In the matter of salvation the Scripture is emphatic about doing it now. Long years ago the prophet Hosea cried out to the Hebrews. ". . . It is time to seek the Lord . . ." (Hosea 10:12). Paul in I Corinthians 7:29 urges that time is short. In the second letter to the Corinthians 6:2 he says "I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." There is always danger in putting off the acceptance of Christ. There is a very ancient story that says that opportunity has a long forelock of hair on its forehead so as to be readily grasped as it goes by. But the back of opportunity's head is bald and smooth and it is impossible to get a grip after it is once past. A present made for 1963 Christmas is forever belated. For Christmas is past. It is imperative to recognize the things that can only be done now and then do them. There is a danger in looking around at the *now*. Some young people think they must experience everything right now. The new clothes must be acquired now. A new car, a new experience, go there now, get a job now, go steady now, get married now, etc. It is important to see around you but also to balance out the now with the past and the future.

## The Forward Look

(The third speaker tells in his own words. He appears with a spy glass or binoculars and uses them to look off into the distance. Thus he suggests looking into the future.)

We are at the end of the year and about to begin 1964. There have been talks about looking around and looking backward. Now let us think about looking forward. Paul emphasized the significance of looking, planning, and working for the future. (See Philippians 3:12-14.) The Phillips' translation has one section in this passage that reads this way, "Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have *arrived* spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me. My brothers I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward—the honor of being called by God in Christ." The passage no doubt, is reference to eternal life, but the principle objective of reaching toward it is true of all in life. All worthwhile goals are obtained this way. The writer of ancient times declared, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Dreams and plans must always precede achievement. Columbus was a dreamer in the field of geography. His mind's eye saw a world as round as a ball. He dreamed about what this meant to navigation and saw himself launching out to find new routes based on this dream. Few believed him. In the eyes of many his was the ranting of a demented mind. But his dreams came true in many ways. In Detroit, Michigan is located Greenfield Village. In it is the restored building in which the Wright Brothers had a bicycle shop. Here they looked into the future and saw men flying through the air on mechanical creations. Here they made their dreams come true. No dreams—no progress. Today men look ahead and the dreams and visions are stupendous. Flights to the moon, to the planets, space stations, are in the vision of men. We see new services, new drugs for the healing of man, clothing and shelter. What ab the church, Sunday school, Christ Endeavor. Are there dreams of the ture, of achievement, of winning oth of training programs, and counti more. Jesus looked into the future. called the apostles and gave them commission. He included us in that co mission. The winning of the world men is yet to be done. Can we see part in it and do some of it this n year of 1964.

### Try These

**1. See what the group thinks was the best meeting that the society had in the previous year.**

**2. Name the most important subject discussed during the year. Why?**

**3. Was this one the most popular? Why or why not?**

**4. What are we doing as a society that is good for it? For the Church? For the community?**

**5. List some of the things that the society should have done in the previous year.**

**6. Should these things be in the coming year's program?**

## The Christward Look

(Let the fourth speaker tell in his o words. The speaker appears with open Bible. It is open to John 12: 22.)

It says here in this passage that th were Greeks that had come up to Je salem to attend the feast of the pa over. While they were there th wanted to see Jesus. They approach Philip as one of the followers and ask him to get them close enough to Jesus. The final emphasis we want make is the need to look to Chr Looking Christward involves a num of things. First it means looking wh he may be found. The record of w He did, what He said and how dealt with people. Therefore we need read the Bible. What better resolut could we make on the eve of a n year than to regularly read the Bib (Explain the Quiet Hour and o membership cards to be signed.) other way of seeing and knowing a p son is to talk to them. So include your life the practice of pray Strength comes from those who h the same ideals and feelings we do. it is important to attend the servi of the church. Looking back is fine helps us determine the future. Look around helps determine those thi that must be done now. Looking ah helps decide the future activity. Lo ing Christward supplies the guide all of our lives.

### Daily Bible Readings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| M. Dec. 23 | A New Song | Psalm 144 |
| T. Dec. 24 | A Challenge | Matthew 28:1 |
| W. Dec. 25 | Results Demanded | Matthew 3 |
| T. Dec. 26 | We Must Bear Fruit | Mark 4:2 |
| F. Dec. 27 | Forsaking Sin | Isaiah 55 |
| S. Dec. 28 | Forgiveness of Sin | I Joh |

**Sun. Dec. 29—Topic: How Do You Look?** Acts 7:4
**(New Year's Sunday)**

Comments by Elwood Dunn, general secre of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union extension representative of the Internati Society of Christian Endeavor

# Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

## Topic Summaries for December

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Dr. Earle W. Gates, chairman; Phyllis G. Brown, Joan Pyle, and Jay Sheffield.

### World Religions (three topics)

**1. The Roman Catholic Bloc**

*Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:44-50*

If the total world population were compressed proportionately into 1,000 people, about 230 of them would be classed as Roman Catholic. Survey the countries where Roman Catholicism is the majority religion. Consideration of peoples and countries as well as the types of governments involved could be background material. An initial project for this and the two subsequent topics could be the coloring on a plain world map of the countries living under various religious influences. Consult resource books or Catholic friends beforehand and in the meeting discuss the distinctive doctrines of Roman Catholicism. In what does it place its faith? What does it teach about forgiveness? How does it differ from Protestantism? Are there similarities?

**2. Communism's Counterattack**

*I Corinthians 15:58; II Timothy 2:16-26*

Again, if the world population were compressed into 1,000 people, 80 would be believing communists and 370 would be under communist domination. Although many would not classify communism as a religion, it is a strong deterrent to other religions and movements because of its tyrannical oppression of religious leaders. An understanding of communistic beliefs, methods, dedications, growth, and concepts of God and man are essential if we are going to counterattack. Gather information and spend time becoming informed about the facts of communism during the meeting. Let us not form our judgments from street corner gossip or agitators in shop or office. Indicate on your map the countries dominated by communism. Are these countries predominately Catholic or Protestant?

**3. Protestant Minority**

*Job 19:25-27; II Timothy 1:9, 12*

Again considering the world population as 1,000, less than 100 would be Protestants. The ideas we have about our religion and that of others are determined greatly by the community environment in which we live. Protestantism is a minority religion. Yet it seems to engulf those of better-than-average economic status in the world. It seems we have not used this economic resource to spread the Gospel we say we believe. We are great originators of new ideas and means, but in spreading the Gospel we don't seem to be too successful. Discuss changing ideas of society, the role of the church in a mobile population, the responsibility of each individual of the church for promoting his church, and the status of the church in our society.

### Family Finances (two topics)

**1. Limited Budget**

*Mark 6:7-9; Matthew 25:14-30*

Money has potential for gain or loss, for good or evil. Most of us live on a restricted budget while in school and in the period following. In his Gospel, Mark reminds us that even the disciples went out with scanty material provisions. The parable of the talents reminds us of our responsibility to take care in dispensing the goods of our Lord. It is essential to be realistic about our income and to plan carefully the allocation of our money. When we fail to budget our income, it is often the benevolent giving that we cut when we become financially pressed. The values of wise budgeting could be presented. What should a Christian budget include? A representative of a Social Service Bureau or a family service agency could be asked to discuss budget practices and act as a resource person.

**2. A Family Affair**

*Matthew 22:17-22; Malachi 3:8-10*

A Christian family has the responsibility not only of giving a tenth of its resources, but also of teaching tithing to the children. A family with nine children maintained this policy. All the earnings from the father's salary to the children's income from the daily paper route were considered, and as each brought into the home his little income, a tenth of it was placed in a large button box kept in the china closet. Each learned, through watching others in his family, the importance of tithing. As each family member needed an offering, he went to the box and took out an appropriate amount. The box, they testified, was never empty. More things are caught than taught. By example we can let those in our family catch the spirit of tithing. Both the blessings and problems of tithing could be discussed.

## Adult-Alumni News Notes

ILLINOIS ALUMNI met in Glen Oak Park, Peoria, on September 15. Of the 80 present, 55 were members of the Alumni organization and at least 15 were past state union presidents. To facilitate the work of the alumni group, Mrs. Sylvia Fromm, chairman, has divided the state into two areas. Mrs. Ruth Wolf Cesna will have responsibility for the northern section with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Skinner in contact with the southern half. Editors for the paper, THE PULCE, will be Chicagoans Goldie Johnson, Bonita Kendrick, Analouise Rinehart, and Mrs. Cesna.

OHIO'S ANNUAL Adult-Alumni Banquet October 19 in Columbus was called the "Banquet of the Presidents." Speaker was Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, World's Union president, with the International Society prexy, Arch J. McQuilkin, serving as toastmaster, and the head of the Ohio Union, James V. Waddell, as announcer. Wilma Thompson, who directs the state adult-alumni work, asked all presidents of organized county adult groups to form a reception committee for the fellowship hour preceding the banquet. Banquet song leaders were Rev. and Mrs. Albert H. Heinz, who led singing for the 1955 International Convention in Columbus.

### Revised Bibliography Now Available

**A newly-revised Bibliography for Adult and Young Adult Societies is now available free of charge from the International Society. Included are available resources under these headings: Adults in the Church, Bible, Church History, Citizenship, Evangelism, Family, Labor, Prayer, Programs, Projects, Science, Sex and Marriage, Stewardship, and Theology. Secure a copy for your society.**

# Christian Endeavor Week 1964

## JANUARY 26 -- FEBRUARY 2

## *Theme: "These My Brethren"*

Use these materials to plan for the celebration of Christian Endeavor's 83rd birthday —

**A Manual for Guidance and Resource,** prepared by Roberta Carrington ..... 35¢
Complete information about the birthday observance with program suggestions, an order of worship, publicity ideas, banquet plans, and suggested activities.

**Radio Program,** based on Christian Endeavor past and present ..... 10¢

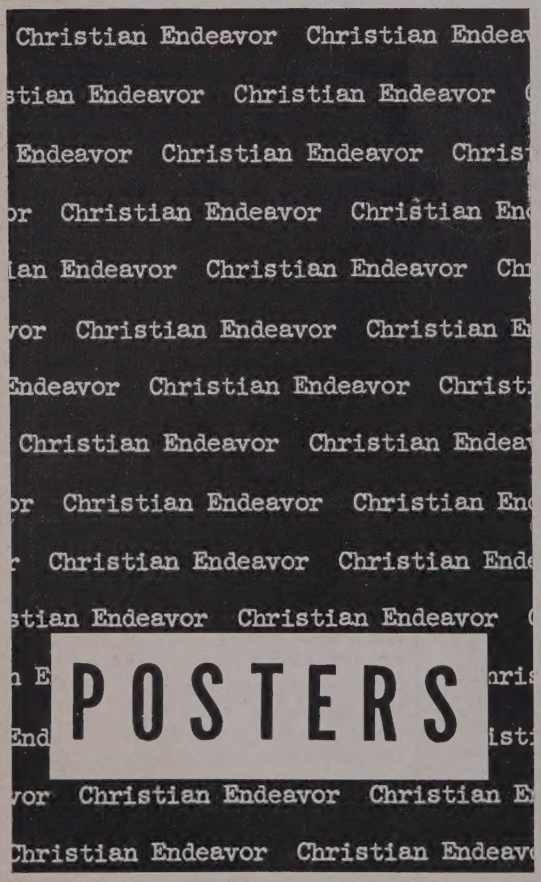
**Television Program,** written by Mrs. Amy Deck Faust ..... 10¢
On the theme for the Week, "These My Brethren."

**"Unto These" Party** (mimeographed), prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Davies ..... 10¢

**1964 Christian Endeavor Week Packet,** containing all items listed above ..... 50¢
Also includes other helpful items. Write for quantity rates.

Order from

**International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216**




## On Display – January and February

Christian Endeavor's colorful outdoor posters will be on display across the United States and Canada during January and February, a part of the annual Christian Endeavor Week observance.

These highway messengers invite youth to come to church and to attend Christian Endeavor. This program, which has been sponsored by Christian Endeavor for more than a quarter of a century, is made possible by the contribution of space by poster plant owners and managers, members of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, Inc.

Christian Endeavorers purchase the outdoor posters themselves. Unions are right now securing gifts for this purpose. Contact the poster chairman for your union to make possible the hanging of several additional posters in your area. The cost is just $5 each.

**For more information, contact:**

**Phyllis I. Rike, Director, Outdoor Poster Program**
**International Society of Christian Endeavor**
**1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216**